

Downtown Improvement Group Investigating Alternative Plans

T APR 25 1977

By WAYNE PERRY

Tribune Staff Writer

Announcement was made Monday that several "concerned citizens" in Terre Haute have formed a new Downtown Improvement Committee to investigate possible alternatives to the downtown beautification project.

The announcement was made by Dr. John A. Logan, executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission. Logan said he was serving as "com-

missioner" for the downtown improvement group.

Logan said that the beautification project has been temporarily delayed while possible alternatives are investigated.

A recommendation from the group is expected by July 1.

A group of concerned citizens who feel there might be alternatives to beautification established this committee, Logan revealed.

He noted that "a team of the best in the country" was working on possible alternatives.

Directly involved in the work is the Downtown Improvement Committee itself, a Women's Advisory Group to that committee, a committee from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, a committee of interested persons from Indiana State University, numerous planners and consultants from several states and Harold Baker (who is working under a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts).

Logan said the main objective of the group was to determine the "fundamental" needs for the downtown area so that it can be made "viable and attractive."

Logan said the group would be hiring a planner to work on the possible alternatives.

The final recommendation of the group might include the long-delayed beautification project, according to Logan.

"The beautification project has been temporarily halted until this is jelled,"

Logan commented. "We may come up with a decision that says 'go' to beautification, but we (might) come up with alternatives that are more fundamental."

Logan also released the results of a workshop conducted by the Women's Advisory Group that listed top priorities for the preservation and restoration of the downtown business area.

Some of the top priorities outlined included the need for (1) lower assessed values of downtown property, (2) more free parking, (3) additional restaurant facilities, (4) more specialty stores, (5) restoration and beautification of existing buildings and (6) improved public relations.

Members of the executive committee for the Downtown Improvement Committee are Robert Boyer, Lucien Meis, Paul J. Pfister, Richard Schultz and Don Smith.

Other committee members are Dr. William Bannon, Richard Beard, Terre Haute Mayor William Brighton, Pete Chalos, Marsee A. Cox, Larry Helman, Anton Hulman Jr., Dr. Richard Landini, Sid Levin, Robert Payne, Jack Neaderhiser, John Scott, James Sullivan, Richard White and Myrt Wilkinson.

Several members of that committee have pointed out that the downtown beautification project is "not dead" and that the recommendations of the Downtown Improvement Committee might include several of the same elements as the beautification plan.

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Downtown Committee Seeks Alternative To Present Beautification Proposal

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

In his discussion Monday morning of the study to be made of downtown Terre Haute for the recently organized Downtown Improvement Com-

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mittee, Dr. John A. Logan, coordinator for the project, said all previous information from various surveys will be used for in-put during the next two months.

At the end of that period, by July 1, it is anticipated that those working with him will have for the Committee a possible alternative to the current beautification plan, and one which will specify what can be done to make downtown Terre Haute "viable and attractive."

During the press conference in the Wabash Valley InterState Commission office, Dr. Logan, its executive director, said the effort will be to do something beyond the beautification and that beautification, however, could be a part of the plan.

In discussing their suggestions as to what should be done to preserve, restore or change the downtown business area, the women's advisory committee to the Improvement Committee listed a wide range of ideas.

These included improvement of parking facilities; creating a modern, financial district in the area; realistically lowering assessed values of property to encourage investors; improvement of transportation to bring people from 30 to 40 miles away from Terre Haute and from communities nearer the town, and identification of the unique populations that shop downtown and tailor the facilities to them.

The suggestions include a number of short-term considerations for improvement, one of which was opening the downtown banks after 2 p.m. Consideration was suggested for better restaurant facilities

downtown, more specialty stores and creation of arcades for small businesses. Many suggestions were made for restoration and beautification, and development of the riverfront with restaurants and cruise ships. The construction of a formal entrance to the Indiana State University campus was also suggested.

Members of the Women's Advisory Committee are Mrs. Geraldine Bradford, Mrs. Margaret Campbell, Mrs. Margaret Carroll, Dean Harriet Darrow, Martha L. Henderson, Mrs. Roger Lehr, Mrs. Henrietta McKean, Mrs. Esther Meeks, Lani Meis, Mrs. "Hap" Miller, Janet Nelson, Mrs. Zoe Parks, Mrs. Marilyn Pendergast, Mrs. Connie Ratcliffe, Cecelia Schultz, Mrs. Tiel Sullivan, Mrs. June Swango and Mrs. Leah Wiedemann.

A team from Indiana State University and another from Indiana University School of Environmental Affairs will be involved in working out plans.

Dean Edward L. Goebel of the School of Business is chairman and his team members are Dr. B. K. Barton, Thomas Craig, Thomas Dawson, Dr. Beverly Fowler, Dr. Harry Krueckeberg, Mrs. Phyllis Landini, Dr. Ben Moulton and Duane Sorensen.

Members of the IU team are Dr. Tom DeCoster, Chairman; Dr. Richard Metzcus, Dr. Thad Smith, a member of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology faculty; Dr. Robert Shriner, Dr. John H. Bowman, Phillip C. Emmi, William G. Ludwin, Carolyn Johnson, Todd Areson and Martha L. Henderson.

Members of the executive committee of the Downtown Improvement Committee are

Robert Boyer, Lucien Meis, Paul J. Pfister, Richard Schultz and Don Smith.

Other committee members are Dr. William Bannon, Richard Beard, Mayor William Brighton, Pete Chalos, Marsee Cox, Larry Helman, Anton Hulman, Jr., Dr. Richard Landini, Sid Levin, Robert Payne, Jack Neaderhiser, John Scott, James Sullivan, Richard White and Myrl Wilkinson.

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Downtown Has Planner

S MAY 12 1977
By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

Dober and Associates, a Cambridge, Mass., planning firm, have been hired as planning and design consultants to the Downtown Improvement Committee, the 20-member group of representative Terre Haute citizens organized recently to study the problems of downtown Terre Haute as these relate to the entire community.

The announcement was made during a Wednesday morning press conference in the office of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission, 24 S. 7th St., by Dr John A Logan, executive director of the Commission and coordinator for the crash program of the Improvement Committee

He explained that Dober and Associates is a "multi-disciplinary office of international rank, providing professional services to affect and improve the built environment." Dr. Logan and Harold Baker, city planner with the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment and one of the key members of the

project team, emphasized that Dober "likes participatory planning" and will seek as much input as possible from all Terre Haute citizens.

Richard Dober has already had intensive meetings in Terre Haute with the Indiana State University and Indiana University teams now engaged in a number of different studies for the project and will return next week for further conferences.

Hopefully, one of the vacant downtown stores will be used to set up displays of the progress of the various teams in terms of maps, photographic material and studies of data so that the citizens of the community can observe first-hand all that is involved in the intensive studies now in progress and offer their suggestions.

Dr. Logan said he is already receiving suggestions through the mail and will welcome ideas from the community about what might be included in a "viable" plan for the downtown area.

The project team has a July 1 deadline for presenting a complete plan to the

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Improvement Committee for its consideration and decision.

Among the many subjects with Dober will study will be opportunities for the program in attracting "large public and private investment possibilities." Dr. Logan said.

The funding for the program is provided by a \$20,000 grant from the Improvement Committee; a \$9,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to Baker's organization matched by \$9,000 in city funds; free services from the Indiana State University and Indiana University teams, and administrative services of administration and secretarial help from the Commission

Dr Logan noted that Dr Richard Landini, president of ISU, has put the services of ISU at the disposal of the project and added that Dober will be working with the University on campus planning. Kirby Smith, executive director of the Terre Haute Housing Authority, is working with the project on plans for the former Deming Hotel and the Terre Haute House.

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New Downtown Plan

City Planning (T.H.) - Downtown Improvement Comm.

Object Of Research

S APR 26 1977

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

A group of concerned citizens have set the wheels in motion for the drafting of what may be a viable plan for the downtown Terre Haute area by July 1. The mechanics of the idea were outlined Monday morning by Dr. John A. Logan, coordinator for the project and executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission.

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During a lengthy press conference at the Commission office, Dr. Logan explained that he has been commissioned by the 20member Downtown Improvement Committee recently organized to get the best people to work and find alternatives to downtown beautification, although this was called one of the positive steps which had been proposed

among the problems of downtown Terre Haute.

Dr. Logan will work with a team from Indiana State University headed by Dean Edward L. Goebel of the School of business; members of an Indiana University team headed by Dr. Tom DeCoster from the School of Environmental Affairs; with a women's advisory committee to the Downtown Improvement Committee, and with Harold Baker, city planner with the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment.

"The downtown problem is a problem for the whole community, not just the Downtown Business Association, and critical not for downtown only but critically important to Terre Haute," Dr. Logan emphasized.

The idea of this "crash" approach to the facts of life in downtown Terre Haute, some of which involved the closing down of businesses and movement of business away from the center to the shopping malls, was discussed initially by several citizens who became the executive committee of the present Downtown Improvement Committee.

They were Paul J. Pfister, Robert Boyer, Lucien Meis, Robert Schultz and Don Smith. With the organization of the improvement committee, the women's advisory group was organized and in a brain storming session this advisory group considered the total problem of "What should be done to preserve, restore or change the downtown business area?"

The women's committee during its Mar. 9 session developed a consensus of some 86 general areas which it believed constituted the elements of the problem. These ideas will be part of the in-put which will be used during the next two months as the teams work on details of their mission, Dr. Logan said.

The Indiana University team will be concerned primarily with the economics of the downtown situation and what might be economically viable. Dr. Thad Smith, a member of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology faculty and a member of the IU team, will serve as liaison with Dr. Logan. Dr. B. K. "Pete" Barton will serve in this capacity from the ISU team.

In addition, Dr. Logan said they expect to hire one planner who will be "the best in the country" to work to see what can be done to make downtown Terre Haute viable and attractive.

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Several Surveys To Aid In Plans For Downtown

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

Dober and Associates, the Cambridge, Mass., firm hired as planning and design consultants to the Downtown Improvement Committee of Terre Haute, are keenly interested in the problems and pleasures of Terre Haute's core, according to the information released Wednesday morning during a press conference in the office of Dr. John A Logan, project coordinator and executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission.

Quoted in the prepared press release distributed at the conference, Richard Dober said "how to make these places human in scale, truly accessible, functional, economic, visually delightful, open to change yet respectful of continuity, is a difficult challenge, but one the office enjoys addressing and resolving with full commitment."

As a city planner and architectural designer, Dober reportedly brings with him added dimensions to the Terre Haute core issues. The firm's clients and commissions include over 100 college, universities and health and research centers. Of particular interest to the firm are those projects involving group clients who wish to alter their physical environment through participating planning processes, and Terre Haute "fits into this category."

Studies now in progress include, for example, one by the Indiana University team on a comparison of Terre Haute with 48 other cities with similar problems, especially taxation, in other parts of the country.

The matter of absentee ownership and taxation is now under study by Miss Carlyn Johnson of the IU team and Professor Duane Sorenson of the ISU team, for example.

The entire planning process has been directed at answering four key questions about the Terre Haute core: what should be done immediately to prevent further erosion of downtown Terre Haute; what existing strength needs to be reinforced

and extended in the immediate future; what opportunities, lying on the horizon, can be articulated and cultivated, and how does it all "hang together."

According to the statement, there will be "key working sessions and public progress reports during the next two months. The Committee on May 20 and June 6 will participate in progress reports and working sessions with the entire planning team. The final strategy plan will be dis-

tributed at the final public meeting June 30.

Dober has written such books as "Environmental Design," "The New Campus in Britain," and "Campus Planning." He writes a monthly column as an American correspondent for "Building," published in London, England, and is the editor and author of numerous periodical issues and articles during the past 17 years. He also is the editor of a series of 33 technical and reference books for the planning and design profession.

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Designer Gives Downtown Views on Needed Improvements

By COLLEEN SIMS
Tribune Staff Writer

"We hope to develop and build something that will make downtown what it can be," said Richard P. Dober of Richard P. Dober and Associates, one of the top planning and design consultants in the country, referring to his firm's plans for the downtown improvement project.

Dober talked with the news media Friday morning after his firm and the other organizations involved in the improvement program for downtown Terre Haute met with the Downtown Improvement Committee.

The morning's program involved an

updating on studies being conducted by groups from both Indiana State University and Indiana University.

"In our view, downtown has to be a place suitable for more than just surviving," Dober said. He added that the downtown should be a place that citizens could "look to with pride."

Dober, whose firm has worked on similar projects in many other cities, said the Terre Haute situation is different because of a "sense of commitment" from a wide variety of people, not just the downtown businessmen.

In comments before Dober spoke with the news representatives, Dr. Thad Smith, who is working with the Down-

town Improvement Committee on the project, said the committee is drawing on five primary local resources. Those were the committee itself, Indiana State University, a Women's Advisory Team, public services such as those offered through Mayor William J. Brighton by the city (like the Department of Redevelopment) and the Housing Authority, and citizen participation.

Dr. Smith added outside resources would include assistance from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs and Dober and Associates.

Dober said a study of 37 downtown improvement projects presented by the IU staff members showed the "success story" for such projects is "much higher than many people thought possible." He said those projects ranged from large cities to small farming communities.

He said the study for possibilities for improvement in the Terre Haute downtown area has to start with the realization that there are a "lot of things we don't want to see," such as "decay and obsolescence."

A plan has to be devised not only for long-range efforts, but also to determine what "can be done immediately to prevent further erosion," Dober said. He pointed out the citizens have to live with the downtown in the next few years.

Dober called Terre Haute "a community that has done things," saying a lot of planning had already been done.

A downtown center is expected to be opened within two weeks to show the citizens what possible plans have been completed and to get public input on the needs in the downtown area, Dober said.

All the input, from the citizens and all the varied studies, is to be gathered in early June for the formulation of a final plan to be submitted by June 30, Dober said.

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Downtown Design Center Will Open Soon On Wabash

Community Affairs File

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

A design and information center showing progress to date of the downtown improvement project will be opened sometime next week at 673 Wabash Ave. in the former campaign headquarters of U.S. Rep. John Myers.

Harold Baker, planner in the Terre Haute Office of Redevelopment and a member of the group working on the project, said Thursday the displays to be set up in the center will make the process graphic through the use of maps of the downtown area, models, slide presentations, photo essays and a wealth of other materials which the working teams for the project have compiled thus far.

The 20-member Downtown Improvement Committee announced April 25 its plans to work on the problems of downtown Terre Haute, with five primary local elements on the planning team. There are resources of Indiana State University, the women's advisory committee, the public sector, the committee itself and the citizens of the community whose participation is greatly desired.

In addition, a team from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs is working with the groups.

Dr. John A. Logan, executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission, was named project director, with Dr. Thad Smith of the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology acting as liaison between Dr. Logan and the working teams.

Baker said he hoped the design and information center will "invite creative ideas about downtown Terre Haute and its potential from all citizens in the community" and that they will come in to see the exhibits and talk with the different members of the planning teams.

Baker said preparations will begin Friday for the opening day which will be announced, as well as the hours for viewing the exhibits.

He also said "several nationally known architectural firms have evidenced interest in the project" since it was announced and would like to discuss conversion and potential reuse of the older buildings which process could also involve their preservation.

Dr. Smith in his capacity as liaison person said Thursday that the Indiana University team, from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and directed by Dr. Thomas DeCoster, has come up with position papers on its research on tax analysis, changes in population and age structure in the future and economic analysis to supplement the market study by Prof. Duane Sorensen of the ISU team.

All of these papers will be discussed during an intensive working session June 2 through 4 at Nashville. Dr. Smith said the I.U. team will invite a representative from the ISU team and from Richard Dober and Associates, Cambridge,

Mass. who were hired as the planning and design consultants for the project. The group will also begin to integrate their various efforts.

A continuation of this process will take place June 6 to in Terre Haute when all segments, including the women's advisory committee and the Downtown Improvement Committee, will work in the same

fashion to produce a "tentative strategy" for downtown improvement.

Dr. Smith emphasized the phrase "tentative strategy" and said "we never intended to have a complete plan (for presentation to the Downtown Improvement Committee) by June 30 but rather a strategy upon which a more intensive effort could be based."

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Logan Says Downtown Improvements 'Exciting'

Community Affairs File JUN 10 1977

Slated for possible release next week are some details of an "exciting" downtown Terre Haute being planned for development in the improvement planning project, according to the project coordinator.

Dr. John A. Logan, advising of "real progress" in the planning which began in April by the 20-member Downtown Improvement Committee, described the status of the evolving project as "really an exciting plan."

He said, "It is one to make the downtown area, including the ISU campus, a viable, exciting region which will encourage investment, both public and private, to make it an attractive place where people want to come. It will be a region unique in its own right and offering cultural events, esthetic qualities and unique shopping experiences."

Planning has included, in addition to many suggestions from the Women's Advisory Committee and a number of private individuals, an intensive discussion by members of the Improvement Committee of these and other criteria with the staff of Richard Dober and Associates, the Cambridge, Mass., company hired as planning and design consultants for the project.

Also a part of input is material from an Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs team which prepared position papers on tax analysis, future changes in population and age structure and economic analyses to supplement a market study by Prof. Duane Sorensen of the Indiana

State University team working with the committee.

Dr. Logan said the Dober staff presently is modifying the basic plan in keeping with the recent meetings here, and that results will be reviewed in outline by the committee the end of this month.

"A half-hour audio-visual presentation of the strategy outline will be developed by Prof. Sorenson and presented June 30 to the Improvement Committee which will be asked to approve the strategy thus presented.

If approved, the suggested plan then will be presented for public scrutiny.

That will be accomplished at the local "design and information center" being set up at 673 Wabash Ave. When it opens, Dr. Logan said, "Public input, suggestions and reactions will be invited."

Note was taken of remarks by City Councilman Pete Chalos that the "... depth and character of the committee's study (are) the best" that Chalos, a social science educator, has ever seen in Terre Haute.

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S JUN 21 1977

Downtown Committee Announces Schedule

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

Proposed strategy elements agreed upon for the proposed downtown revitalization were presented Monday morning during a press conference conducted by Dr. John A. Logan, project coordinator, in the office of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission for which he is also executive director.

Progress since the first announcement April 26 by the 20-member Downtown Improvement Committee concerned with the revitalization was called "quite remarkable" during Dr. Logan's opening remarks. He emphasized that

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the planning and design consultants, Richard Dober and Associates from Cambridge, Mass., and the two teams from Indiana State University and Indiana University "have come to agreement" that the problem of downtown "is a problem for the entire community" which will affect the quality of life in the entire community.

Phase I involves organization of a Downtown Development Association. Such an Association would be formed at once upon Committee acceptance of the

strategy plan, Dr. Logan indicated.

Other elements of Phase I would be concern parking lots, for which there is plenty of space at present, and street landscape for the area, not only Wabash Avenue; designation of a location for a city-county building; store remodeling and the recycling of "important vacancies" such as the Farmers' Market, Fairbanks Library, former New York Central Railroad station and the old opera house at Third and Ohio Streets. Listed also for Phase I are north-south pedestrian links, or greenways, to allow freer movement of pedestrians between the Public Library and Indiana State University. Also a part of Phase I will be development of the ground floors of the former Deming Hotel and Terre Haute House.

Phase II also calls for additional pedestrian linkages in and around the downtown area and expansion of the Tribune-Star Publishing Co., possibly eastward, with presses visible to the public.

Phase III will concern hotel-motel complex, professional office condominium and still additional pedestrian linkages.

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Report Progress On Downtown Improvement Planning Project

City Planning (I.H.)

Community Affairs File

S JUN 10 1977

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

"Real progress" can be reported on the downtown improvement project, according to Dr John A Logan, project coordinator who discussed Thursday the status of the project initiated in April by the 20-member Downtown Improvement Committee concerned with the problems of downtown Terre Haute.

Since the first announcement April 26 by the Committee about its plans, a team from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs prepared position papers on tax analysis, changes in population and age structure in the future and economic analysis to supplement the market study by Prof Duane Sorensen of the Indiana State University team working with the Committee.

All of this material, as well as many suggestions from the Women's Advisory Committee and private citizens, was discussed during several intensive day-long sessions with the staff of Richard Dober and Associates, the Cambridge, Mass firm hired as planning and design consultants for the project.

Dr Logan explained that the firm first suggested a strategy which after three days of "intensive discussion" Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with the Committee and representatives from the academic teams, was modified.

Suggestions and ideas from various sources, including citizens who volunteered their ideas and the Women's Advisory Committee, were taken into account.

"The Dober staff has taken its suggested plan back to Cambridge and the plan will be modified according to the suggestions resulting from the meetings," Dr Logan said. "A half-hour audio visual presentation of the strategy outline will be developed by Prof. Sorenson and presented June 30 to the Improvement Committee which will be asked to approve the strategy thus presented."

If the Committee approves the strategy and the general concepts, then the suggested plan will be presented for public scrutiny in the design and information center now being prepared in the former campaign headquarters of U.S. Rep. John Myers at 673 Wabash Ave.

"Public input, suggestions and reactions will be invited, when the design center opens," Dr Logan emphasized. Originally the center was expected to be ready this week.

Citing remarks made Wednesday night by Councilman Pete Chalos that the "depth and character of the committee's study" were "the best" Chalos had ever seen in Terre Haute.

Dr Logan called the strategy and concept "really an exciting plan."

"It is one to make the downtown area, including the ISU campus, a viable, exciting region which will encourage investment, both public and private, to make it an attractive place where people want to come," Dr Logan declared. "It will be a region unique in its own right and offering cultural events, esthetic qualities and unique shopping experiences."

Dr Logan was hopeful that some details of the general strategy plan will be available possibly by next week.

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Downtown Improvement Group

JUN 28 1977

Plans Meeting on Thursday

Community Affairs File

By COLLEEN SIMS

Tribune Staff Writer

Plans for the future of downtown Terre Haute are to be decided in a Thursday meeting of the Downtown Improvement Committee.

At a 9 a.m. meeting in the old Deming Hotel, committee members are to be presented proposals for solutions to the current problems of the downtown area of the city.

Those proposals have been drawn up after about two months of study of downtown problems by teams from Indiana University and Indiana State University; Richard P. Dober and Associates, one of the top planning and design consultant firms in the country; and several other area

planners.

Dr. John A. Logan, executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission who is heading the Downtown Improvement Committee, reported recently the committee members have the authority to act at the Thursday morning

meeting to decide a plan for the survival of the downtown.

A news conference for release of the final plan decided on by the committee has been scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

The Downtown Improvement Committee is a group of about 20 concerned business people who organized last February to find alternatives to a downtown beautification project ready to be started at that time. Several critics of that project claimed the beautification would not solve the problems of downtown.

Since that time, the studies have been under way, with Dober & Associates beginning work in May.

Dr. Logan last week announced a 10-year strategy plan agreed upon by those agencies working on the project. Details of that plan are to be decided by the committee Thursday.

City Planning (T.H.)

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Downtown Vital To City: Levin

By COLLEEN BLACKETER
Tribune Staff Writer

Sidney Levin, president of the Downtown Business Association, said Wednesday the merchants have faith that downtown will remain a vital area of the city and they are optimistic about the future of the downtown business section of Terre Haute.

Levin's optimistic outlook for downtown Terre Haute was in accordance with opinions expressed on areas such as business and the economy at the 1976 Business Outlook Forum at Indiana State University Wednesday.

Levin, as one of six guest speakers at the conference attended by Terre Haute area business leaders, gave the outlook for downtown Terre Haute and also explained the downtown beautification program.

One problem with keeping downtown Terre Haute a vital area has been the negative attitude of many people who say the downtown section will never be as important again, according to Levin.

Levin said these people point out the empty buildings downtown, but Levin pointed out several of the outlying shopping centers which also have empty buildings or are completely empty.

A central business district is needed because it offers other services than just retail stores, Levin claimed. He explained Terre Haute's downtown area includes City Hall, the Courthouse, the Federal Building, Indiana State University, Fairbanks Library, the Tribune-Star Publishing Company, three major banks, savings and loan associations and professional services such as doctors and lawyers.

Out of 4,000 people in the downtown area, less than 400 are involved in retailing, according to Levin. "These other service count," he said, calling the downtown area the "nerve center" of the community.

Levin said the revitalization of the downtown area has been approached in three categories: (1) a beautification program; (2) the parking problem, and (3) a fair tax base.

A downtown beautification program was started in May, 1973, by Mayor William J. Brighton but ran into difficulty shortly thereafter when President Richard Nixon froze federal funds intended to pay for half of the project, according to Levin.

Levin said when he took over the presidency of the Downtown Business Association in

October, 1973, he found the people were still interested in upgrading the downtown area so he began getting pledges from the individual businesses for a smaller beautification program than was originally planned. He said he has over \$75,000 in pledges collected now and more money is promised as soon as the city lets the bids on the construction of the projects for the beautification.

The beautification plan includes 60,000 square feet of new sidewalks, curbs, ramps and shelters on the street corners. A park-like affect is to be created by the extension of the curbs on the northwest and southeast corners of each block and the addition of benches, trees, shrubbery, grass and flowers. New decorative street lights are being installed now and were supplied by Public Service Indiana.

Community Development money available through the federal government has been offered for the project also by Mayor Brighton, Levin said. The money will be available in the next few years.

On the problem of parking, Levin explained parking is the "mainstay" of a shopping center.

He said he has talked with city officials and he foresees budget parking available in the downtown area in the future. He said some of the vacant buildings could be torn down, with the lots blacktopped and meters installed. He said the merchants then could issue meter tokens or the shoppers could pay for the parking.

Mayor Brighton has indicated he will appoint a committee by the middle of the year to study the financial feasibility of creating such a parking authority in the city.

Levin said the taxing of the downtown land is not fair compared to the taxing of other similar shopping centers in outlying areas.

For example, he said the parking lot at 7th Street and Wabash Avenue which consists of two acres is taxed at \$228,900 while the total tax for K-mart, GRants, Topps, Meadows Center, Honey Creek Square, Zayre, Plaza North and Southland shopping centers consisting of about 170 acres is \$230,000.

A Fair Share Tax Association has been formed by several of the property owners in the downtown area and a lawsuit has been filed requesting the downtown property to be reassessed on a comparable basis to the other shopping centers, Levin reported. He said the case is still pending.

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THE TRIBUNE, TERRE HAUTE



RECOGNIZING AMERICA'S 200th YEAR OF BUSINESS — Sponsors and guests at the Seventh Annual Terre Haute Area Business Outlook Forum, conducted Wednesday at Indiana State University by the Bureau of Business Research, gathered at the noon luncheon and noted that the 1976 Forum also marked the 200th year of American business. The Forum is conducted each year to provide a review of the economic and business futures for Terre Haute, the state and the nation. Pictured are

John J. Carter, vice president, Indiana National Bank; Sidney Levin, president, Terre Haute Downtown Business Association; James Nance, marketing manager, IBM Corp.; Dr. Richard Landini, ISU president; Dr. Edward "Jack" Gobel, dean of the ISU School of Business; and Gary Baxter, vice president and chief economist, Federal Home Loan Bank.

House of Photography Photo

Committee Announces Strategy

By COLLEEN SIMS
Tribune Staff Writer

A strategy plan for improvement of Terre Haute's downtown area, including immediate and long-range implementation phases, has been coordinated by the groups studying the local downtown situation.

Dr. John A. Logan, executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission and commissioner of the Downtown Improvement Committee, reported Monday the Downtown Improvement Committee is to meet Thursday, June 30, to decide what proposals to follow for the downtown.

"I think we can have an exciting, viable, attractive area — a credit to Terre Haute, a credit to Vigo County, a credit to this entire marketing area..." Dr. Logan said, referring to the current plan.

Dr. Logan said the groups working on the downtown plans, including Indiana University, Indiana State University and Richard P. Dober and Associates, one of the top planning and design consultant firms in the country, have come to a "general agreement."

That agreement, according to Dr. Logan, is that the problem of downtown Terre Haute is "not just the downtown businessmen's problem," but a problem of the entire community which can

City Planning (TH)
T JUN 20 1977
affect the "quality of life" in Terre Haute.

The priority problems for downtown Terre Haute were determined to be taxation, parking and traffic flow, Dr. Logan said. The committee also determined the strengths of the downtown area to be ISU, the banks, the library, the governmental and professional offices and the shops.

He said the groups decided the downtown should capitalize on its strengths and not try to be like the shopping centers.

Monday morning, Dr. Logan reviewed with the news media a three-phase plan of strategy elements for the downtown as determined by the recent study.

He said he hopes implementation of those items in the first phase can begin this summer, with the other stages following over a 10-year period.

Listed under phase one are:

- Creation of a Downtown Development Association;
- Development of a Stage I Urban Design Action manual, including plans for parking lots and street landscape;
- Determination of the city-county building location;
- Planning for the ground floor spaces of the Deming Hotel and the Terre Haute House, the upper floors of which are to be renovated for elderly and

handicapped housing units;

- Remodeling of stores;
- Recycling of important vacancies, such as the Fairbanks Library to be vacated with the completion of the new library, the old railroad station at Seventh and Tippecanoe streets, the old opera house at Third Street and Wabash Avenue and another old building into a farmers' market; and

- Development of north and south pedestrian links, particularly between ISU and the new library.

The second phase calls for:

- Community effort for the ISU performing arts center;
- Development of entrance streets and plazas for ISU;
- Closing of streets for ISU;
- Tribune-Star Publishing Company expansion; and
- Creation of additional pedestrian linkages.

The final phase provides for:

- Building of a hotel/motel complex downtown;
- Construction of a professional office condominium; and
- Creation of additional pedestrian linkages.

Dr. Logan said a more detailed plan is to be presented to the Downtown Improvement Committee during the June 30 meeting.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

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City Planning (T.H.) - Community Affairs File

Downtown Improvement

Plans Progress

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

Members of the Downtown Improvement Committee will meet at 9 a.m. Thursday in the Aero Room of Indiana State University's Conference Center when the strategy outline for improvement of downtown Terre Haute will be presented by Richard P. Dober of Richard Dober and Associates, Cambridge, Mass., hired as planning and design consultants for the project. Meanwhile, work was moving along for the possible Friday opening of the Design Center at 673 Wabash Ave. The Center will give citizens an opportunity to see concepts of the strategy plan as proposed and offer comments and suggestions about improvement for the downtown area.

The project was initiated in April and since the first announcement a team from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs has prepared position papers on tax analysis, changes in population and age structure in the future. Dr. Tom DeCoster, team chief, will present a method of implementation to the Committee after Dober's report.

A market study was conducted by the Indiana State University team headed by Prof. Duane Sorensen and he also will report to the Committee.

Sorensen has developed a half-hour audio visual presentation for the Committee. In a news conference earlier this month, Logan said after the presentations Thursday the Committee will be

asked to approve the strategy presented. If this action is taken, the first phase of the strategy elements calls for the organization of a Downtown Development Association.

Dober, who arrived in Terre Haute Wednesday afternoon, said "fundamental economic factors" are changing the

Ask Free Parking

Diligent in its endeavor, the Terre Haute Downtown Business Association has presented a petition to the Board of Public Works requesting the free Saturday parking provision be continued.

According to Steve Owens, president of the DBA, the petition presented Wednesday morning contained the names of 60 downtown merchants. Owens said:

"Almost every merchant signed the petition requesting free parking be continued on Saturdays. With this kind of unanimity I certainly hope the Board of Public Works will adopt again the provision for free Saturday parking."

Free Saturday parking was allowed during the months of April and May, however it was discontinued in June when the DBA apparently failed to provide facts and figures indicating the plan resulted in increased retail sales.

Although the Board of Public Works met Wednesday, it did not take action on the matter.

role of downtown Terre Haute, and in the new development patterns nationally services are playing "a larger and larger economic role."

"People have become a lot more sensitive to the visual world," he added, "and there is less emphasis on exatitute and more on the appearance of things."

A feature of the Design Center will be a canvass sign designed and executed by Donna Friendman, Terre Haute artist, and Frances Lattanzio, photography instructor at Indiana State University. The sign will cover the present sign at the Center. Suzanne Long, interior design teacher in the ISU home economics department, executed the banner in the Center window and the logo. Also involved in the two projects was Gail Hartwigsen, also of the ISU home economics department.

Also playing a part in the work of the Downtown Committee was its Women's Advisory Committee which offered a list of suggestions for action. Comments and suggestions also have come from private citizens and the Committee has emphasized with the opening of the Design Center there are hopes of continuation of citizen input.

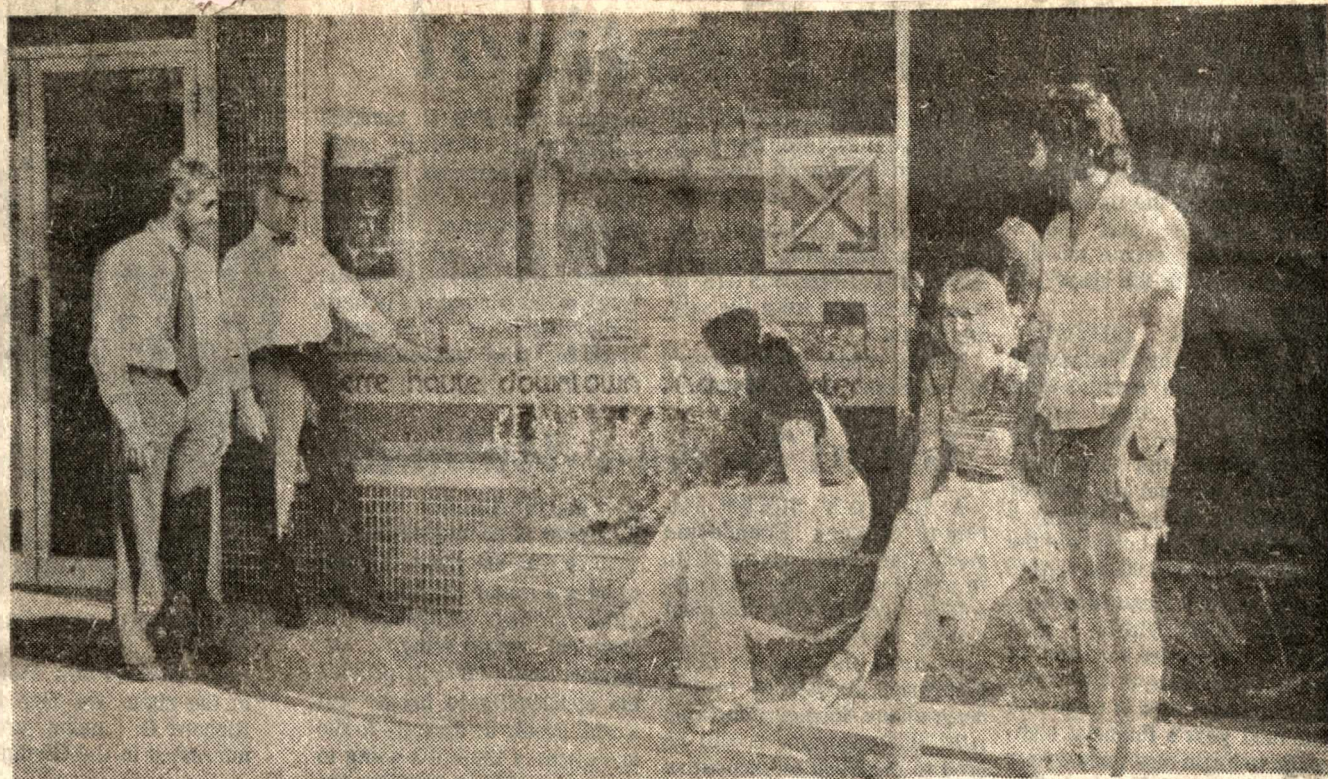
Logan has emphasized the proposed strategy plan is one to make the downtown area, including the ISU campus, a "viable, exciting region which will encourage investment, both public and private and make it an attractive place where people want to come."

Community Affairs File

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Vigo County Public Library



DOWNTOWN DESIGN CENTER READIED FOR OPENING

— Citizens will soon be able to examine in detail the strategy elements for proposed downtown improvement when the Downtown Improvement Committee opens its Design Center at 673 Wabash Ave. Pictured Wednesday afternoon in front of the Center are Miss Suzanne Long of the Indiana State University faculty who produced the window sketch, designed

to suggest a city street which would attract community interest. Miss Frances Lattanzio, also an ISU instructor who helped design a banner sign, Richard Dober of Dober and Associates, planning and design consultants for the committee; Harold Baker III, city planner in the Terre Haute office of Redevelopment; and Robert LaFountain, interested spectator.

(Star Photo: Kadel)

Downtown Face-Lift Idea Coming to Vote

City Planners (TH)

Community Affairs File

Downtown Improvement Committee

JUN 3 0 1977

By COLLEEN SIMS
Tribune Staff Writer

A decision is to be made by Friday on whether or not a proposed concept for improvements in the downtown Terre Haute area is to be accepted.

The Downtown Improvement Committee was presented the long-range concept in a Thursday morning meeting.

The overall concept provides several phases for improvements in the downtown area, ranging from immediate action to action expected within 10 years.

Richard P. Dober and Associates, one of the top planning and design consultant firms in the country, coordinated information received for the plan from its own firm and from teams from Indiana State University and Indiana University, a Women's Advisory Committee and the public sector.

Changes in the downtown area should come about yet this summer if the plan is approved, according to Dr. John A. Logan, who has headed up the improvement committee since its formation

several months ago.

Several of the immediate actions provided in the concept would provide for beautification.

Dr. Logan emphasized the improvements are part of a concept, with details not formulated enough to be able to call the concept a plan yet.

The concept presented Thursday to the committee, according to Dr. Logan, was an "viable, attractive" one. He added it is not "simply" for Wabash Avenue alone, though, but amounts to a "civic, community project."

The plan ranges from ISU on the north, the new Vigo County Library on the south, the Wabash River on the west and Ninth Street on the east.

A brochure distributed Thursday which accompanied the presentation of the strategy to the committee members covered the purpose and expectations of downtown Terre Haute. It gave the history, along with climate and culture, and of Terre Haute and also reviewed Terre Haute in 1977.

The strategy for downtown was bro-

ken down into several elements: circulation, parking, open space, streetscape and Wabash Avenue. Those elements were included in three phases of the overall concept, with the phases to be carried out at different times beginning now and spanning to 10 years from now.

A map in the brochure showed specific areas in the downtown which are slated for improvements in the current strategy. Included on the map were plans for new building sites, recycling of present buildings, improvements for parking areas, street landscaping and greenways and ISU plazas.

A design center to show the public the concept and current strategy is to be opened at 673 Wabash Ave. next week, according to Richard P. Dober. He said the center is to be open for two weeks to show some of the work completed in the determination of the concept. Slides showing other cities are to be shown, also.

Duane Sorenson, ISU, who is working on the project from ISU, said the support of the project for improvements in downtown has been strong. He said this shows there is a wide "recognition of the problem," and creates a "high probability of success" for the improvements.

Community Affairs File

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Vigo County Public Library

Downtown Center Opens

S JUL 1 1977

Community Affairs File

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

Design and Information Center for the proposed downtown area improvement project will open Friday at 673 Wabash Ave. and the Downtown Improvement Committee reportedly was moving Thursday into Phase I of the strategy plan by organizing the Committee into a development association.

The full Committee met Thursday morning with Richard Dober of Richard Dober and Associates, Cambridge, Mass., planning and design consultants. Dober presented the proposed strategy elements resulting from work by his firm and intensive studies by teams from Indiana State University headed by Prof. Duane Sorensen and Indiana University directed by Dr. Tom De Coster, as well as the Women's Advisory Committee and Harold Baker III of the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment.

During a Thursday morning press conference following this presentation, Dr. John A. Logan as project coordinator said "we have come up with a plan for a civic community project going beyond Wabash Avenue to stop the process of decay and blight and bring

people back to downtown Terre Haute."

Prof. Sorensen commented that the project had "whole-hearted support and this support is indicative of the high probability of success" for the proposed strategy.

Paul Pfister as spokesman for the Committee told The Star after the conference that the Committee would meet "to formally organize an improvement association" and that after the association is formed, it will "consider the strategies as discussed" during the morning session.

Dr. Logan said during the press conference that he had "tentatively agreed" that if invited he would "continue with the committee." Pfister indicated Dr. Logan would be invited to continue as project coordinator.

Dr. Logan commented on the "remarkable interest and support of the plan by business men" and that 10 years from now "the area will be "most attractive and viable with close linkages with Indiana State University and very viable anchors such as the new library, banks and stores." He pointed out that a market survey shows that downtown sales have been increasing.

The Design Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for two weeks except for Monday, July 4. It will be staffed by Baker, interested citizens who will volunteer their services, and Allen Stoner, student intern from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology who is working this Summer with the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission for which Dr. Logan is executive director.

Strategy suggested for Wabash Avenue itself as a "good alternative" to a permanent mall is the removal of the two parking lanes and replacement of cars with trees, with new walkways giving a more "comfortable and inviting" scale to adjacent architecture. The proposed action plan envisages a new Swope Gallery on Wabash Avenue between Eight and Ninth Streets as well as an auto museum and meeting place as anchors for the east end. A new city-county office and possibly a professional office and specialty shop building would anchor the west end of Wabash Avenue.

Dober emphasized the importance of the "recycling," or continued use of older buildings wherever possible.

City Planning (T.H.) - Downtown Improvement Committee
Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

City Planning (T.H.) - General
Beautification Plan
2-12-77-7
Topic of Discussion

By WAYNE PERRY
 Tribune Staff Writer

About 20 downtown Terre Haute businessmen attended a session Friday afternoon designed to answer questions about the long-delayed downtown beautification project.

The session, which lasted less than one hour, was relatively restrained—in contrast to the controversy that has erupted over the project during the past week.

Discussion at the session, conducted at the Terre Haute City Hall Courtroom, centered on the beautification project's cost and timetable, as well as on parking problems and merchant input into decision-making on project planning.

Last Sunday, The TRIBUNE reported that some business owners in the downtown area said they had not been kept informed of the status of the project and what effect the construction work in the downtown area would have on their businesses.

Some of those quoted also questioned whether the beautification project as proposed will help solve the problems of the downtown area.

Others said they feel the project "needs to be re-evaluated" to determine if it is "even worthwhile."

Last Wednesday, Sid Levin, leader of the project, replied to the criticisms, asking why those people making the remarks "waited from 1974 to 1977 to say they don't like what's happening—the time to speak up was during the discussion stages."

He added that "we can't stop progress—we have to go ahead."

The first advertisements for bids on the actual construction of the project appeared on Monday, Feb. 7. Bids are to be opened March 11 and contracts are expected to be awarded shortly thereafter.

Terre Haute Mayor William J. Brighton called the Friday afternoon meeting for all of the business people and planners of the project to answer questions about the undertaking.

As noted, about 20 businessmen attended the session and heard Brighton and Robert Payne, Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment, explain the project.

Payne discussed the overall project

and timetable and noted that the biggest question now was how to control traffic in the downtown area.

He noted that at some point in the construction Wabash Avenue would be closed to traffic. Also, he noted that some alleys would be permanently closed. After completion of the project Wabash will be a two-lane street.

Most of the questions at the meeting concerned traffic and parking in the downtown area.

Payne said at one point that the beautification project was "not the whole answer to the problems of downtown—this is strictly cosmetic."

He noted that about 10 parking meter spots would be lost with the new project and that the parking problem was something that would have to be dealt with separately.

Also discussed was the effect the beautification work would have on daily business operations.

Payne said the construction would not cause the closing of any business' front entrance and that ramps would be used when necessary to keep each stores' front-door accessible.

Other items discussed by the businessmen included the proposed shelters that would be located at each intersection in the downtown area, the problems involved in maintaining deliveries to the businesses during construction, the use of parking meters in the area after the project is completed, the engineering problems in accommodating openings; under the current sidewalks and the upkeep of the general downtown area and the added greenery the project will involve.

The cost of the project was also discussed. Levin said the downtown businessmen had raised \$100,000 that is now in the bank and have a promise of another \$45,000 pledge and other possible corporate gifts.

Payne said the city was prepared to put in "three-to-one" on the financial portion of the project and "maybe even four-to-one to get the job done."

Finally, the suggestion was made that businessmen maintain open communication with planners in the project so that the input from the downtown merchants could be obtained.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
 DO NOT CIRCULATE

Funding approved For downtown area

OCT 3 1977

City Planning (H)

By ROB ALLEN
Tribune Staff Writer

Terre Haute Mayor William Brighton Monday morning announced that \$347,000 has been approved by the Economic Development Administration for the renovation of the city's downtown area.

Brighton said he received verbal notification on the money and the city will now await official notification by letter. The mayor said once the official notification comes, the city has 90 days to start construction.

Architects for the proposed renovation have reported they should have their plans ready for approval by the second week of November, Brighton said.

Brighton said the downtown improvement project represents "a total cooperative effort among city government, Indiana State University and downtown businesses."

He said the "ultimate benefactor will be the citizens of Terre Haute." Brighton said he is interested in the issue to help "do something to help maintain that tax area." The mayor noted the downtown area is the heaviest taxed area in the city.

Brighton noted that the \$347,000 is federal money "pls that contributed by downtown businesses." No property tax dollars from Terre Haute citizens are being used, he said.

The project is expected to

take eight to 10 years to complete. Brighton said the program is in its first phase.

"We hope that it will help stimulate private money spending in the downtown area by merchants here and serve as an inducement for outside businesses to come in."

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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City Planning (T.H.) ~~2-12-77-T~~ *2-12-77-T*
DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION is scheduled to get underway this spring, according to reports from Friday's meeting of project leaders with city officials and area businessmen. Viewing plans presented at the meeting attended by about 20 downtown Terre Haute businessmen were, from the left, Mayor William J. Brighton, project leader Sid Levin and Robert Payne of the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment.
/ House of Photography Photo.

REFERENCE
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Vigo County Public Library

Sid Levin Comments On Downtown Project

2-10-77-T
By COLLEEN SIMS
Tribune Staff Writer

"We can't stop progress — we have to go ahead," said Sid Levin, leader for the downtown beautification project this week in response to criticism recently raised of the proposed project.

The first advertisements for bids on the actual construction of the long-delayed project appeared in the two local newspapers Monday. Bids are to be opened March 11.

Levin this week replied to comments an criticisms about the downtown beautification project as now planned which were made by several unnamed downtown business persons in a Sunday TRIBUNE-STAR article.

Mayor William J. Brighton has scheduled a meeting for 2 p.m. Friday in the City Hall courtroom for all of the business people and planners of the project to answer questions about the project.

The criticisms in the Sunday paper were mostly that the business owners downtown had not been kept informed of the status of the project and what affect the construction work in the downtown

area would have on the businesses. Some of those quoted also questioned whether the beautification project as proposed will help solve the problems of the downtown area.

Levin, in his reply to the criticisms, asked why those people making the remarks "waited from 1974 to 1977 to say they don't like what's happening — the time to speak up was during the discussion stages."

Levin was very critical of the persons quoted in the Sunday article because they did not want their names released.

"You can quote Sid Levin that he is not afraid to let his name be known for what he stands," Levin said.

He commented that most of the property owners downtown have contributed to the project, but quite a few have not. He continued that he "would like to know if the one making the comments against the project has contributed or if he is one of the parasitic types that takes advantage of what is being done and sits back and criticizes."

"These are the people that don't go to the public meetings and then start raising hell when the project comes to fruition," Levin stated.

"I'm sorry if those people are dissatisfied with the leadership, if I knew who the people were I might go to them and solicit them to take over the leadership," Levin continued.

Levin said he doesn't feel the beautification project will be "any great improvement as far as business in the downtown is concerned," but said other factors such as pride in ownership and pride of the citizens in their downtown should be improved.

Listing factors he does feel would improve the downtown business, Levin said an equitable tax base and the establishment of a parking authority that could offer budget parking would stimulate downtown business.

"In the meantime, we can't stop progress — we have to go ahead," Levin said.

He urged all business people with questions on the project to attend Friday's meeting.

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Some Merchants Have Questions About Downtown Beautification

City Planning (T.H.) / General

By COLLEEN SIMS
Tribune Staff Writer

The long-delayed downtown Terre Haute beautification project has finally gotten to a stage which may directly lead to construction.

Legal advertisements for bids on the project will appear in both local newspapers Monday. The bids are to be opened March 11 at 2 p.m. at the Department of Redevelopment.

Several of the downtown businessmen affected by the project have indicated to The TRIBUNE, though, that they now have specific questions about the project and even wonder about the advisability of the whole endeavor.

Mayor William J. Brighton said last Friday that he will have a meeting with the downtown businessmen this week to answer their questions. That meeting has tentatively been scheduled for Friday afternoon.

The project has been in the planning stages for several years, but Mayor Brighton stated last fall that the project should be under construction by spring.

The total downtown project calls for a meandering Wabash Avenue from Third to Ninth streets and for new sidewalks with greenery areas and shelters along the route. New traffic signals are to be installed along Wabash Avenue also.

New decorative street lights have already been installed in the downtown area as part of the project.

The project is estimated to have a cost of about \$450,000, which is to include \$200,000 pledged by the downtown merchants themselves. The remaining funds will be provided through a block grant program under the authority of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Several of the downtown businessmen who have pledged some of the funds have reported to The TRIBUNE recently that they now have many questions on the project.

Some have said they feel the project "needs to be re-evaluated" to determine if it is "even worthwhile."

Most of the affected merchants who have voiced the complaints said they do not want to completely stop the project, but say they feel there are a "lot of unanswered questions." The businessmen asked not to be identified.

One of the points the businessmen emphasized was that they have not been informed of what actually will occur during construction and how their businesses will be affected.

They pointed out if Wabash Avenue is going to be closed temporarily during the construction work, the deliveries to their businesses will have to be altered. Deliveries to the rear of some of the businesses will cause security problems, they reported. Also, they added the alleys allow for only one lane of traffic, so deliveries in the alleys would result in one delivery truck blocking all the traffic in the alley.

After the work is done, Wabash Avenue will have only one lane of traffic for each direction of traffic, which will permanently affect deliveries to the businesses, according to the businessmen. They explained the trucks now have to stop in the nearest traffic lane in front of the business when no parking spaces are available when making deliveries. With only one lane of traffic in each direction and no second lane available for the other traffic to pass, the delivery trucks could cause long traffic back-ups.

Also pointed out was that a regular motorist trying to parallel park could back traffic up since no lane will be available in which to pass the auto.

Parking and traffic flow were two major problems the businessmen listed with the downtown area, and they said they felt the proposed beautification project will not help resolve these problems.

2-6-77-T.S.

Another thing pointed out by the merchants was that they have not been informed definitely if they will have to be closed any time during the construction work on the sidewalks. Some sources have told them they will not and others have said they will have to be closed for short times if they have only one entrance.

One of the businessmen said he knows the dying out of downtown business areas is a national problem, but added he has heard that beautification projects as proposed for Terre Haute have not helped other cities at all.

He said the people who have control of the real estate in downtown Terre Haute have to be contacted and kept informed of the progress. He said they should be allowed to express their opinions on what is needed to improve downtown.

He concluded that the project needs "leadership — whether from the private sector or the government."

Vigo County Public Library

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Only Few Persons Attend Hearing On Block Grant

City Planning (T.H.) - [unclear]
Community Affairs file 1-27-77-T

The first of two hearings on a \$300,000 Community Development Block Grant was conducted by the Vigo County Commissioners Wednesday afternoon, with only a few persons turning out to make suggestions to the commissioners and a representative of the West Central Indiana Economic Development District about using the funds.

Another hearing is scheduled for next Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the commissioners' office, Room 25, in the Vigo County courthouse.

Vigo, Clay, Sullivan and Vermillion Counties are "competing" for the funds which are available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Bill Thompson of the WCIEDD staff noted that awarding of the grants would be partly determined by past performance on prior grants in the case of a reapplication.

John A. Kesler president of the United War Veterans Council of Vigo County, suggested that Memorial Hall might be used for a senior citizens nutrition center and meeting place. He suggested asking for \$50,000 for this purpose.

The Vigo County Health Department wants to continue the demolition project (condemned houses and buildings) begun two years ago through the block grants. The cost averages about \$350 to tear down a residence. With the land cleared, it is easier to sell,

County Commissioner John A. Scott said.

The Vigo County Park and Recreation Department would use block grant funds for the proposed recreational facility at Fontanet (Holloway's Grove, site of the annual bean dinner) and/or for renovation of the heating system at Glenn Recreation Center.

County Commissioner Terry Brentlinger suggested funds could go toward the Youngstown sewer connection.

The Town of West Terre Haute is expected to seek block grant funding to continue its curb and sidewalk program begun in 1976 through an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant.

The Town of Riley also plans to conduct a hearing on possible projects.

Pre-applications are to be submitted by Feb. 18, Thompson said. The first screening, 60 days after that, will determine what governmental units will be asked to submit full applications.

Also attending the session Wednesday were Ron Stephenson, executive director of the United Way of the Wabash Valley, and Margaret Banker, labor staff representative. They had no specific proposals but indicated they were interested in community centers in Vigo County.

Community Affairs File

Downtown to Treat Shoppers to Free Meters

T MAR 30 1977

~~Issue TH~~
The Downtown Business Association and the City of Terre Haute will treat shoppers to free parking meters each Saturday in April, according to DBA President, Sid Levin. The meter plan, to be offered on a trial basis only, will begin April 2.

DBA members Jack Pierce and Steve Owen spearheaded the project in cooperation with Mayor Brighton, who agreed to forego the meter charges for one month.

The Saturday access to free parking will hopefully provide the needed stimulus to attract downtown shoppers, who have

long expressed concern over inadequate or expensive parking facilities. In addition to the meters, downtown banks and some businesses will open up their parking lots to Saturday shoppers at no cost.

Mayor Brighton has promised to review the free Saturday meter plan at the end of April to determine its feasibility as a long-range program.

The DBA involves the efforts of some 50 downtown merchants, who have been working on beautification and clean-up operations for the last several months in hopes of reviving customer interest in the downtown shopping district.

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City Planning (T.H.)

14 THE TRIBUNE-STAR, TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA, Community Affairs File, SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1974



DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION efforts by the Downtown Business Association (DBA) and the assistance of the Terre Haute Boys' Club were recognized in a brief observance Saturday as (from left) Jon Maston of Montgomery Ward and Garland Cooper of Smith's Hardware Co. displayed one of the many colorful flower pots along Wabash Avenue, obtained by the DBA, while association president Sid Levin presented a check to Max Jones, Boys' Club director, for that organization's assistance in the project.

House of Photography Photo.

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Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File



DBA PRESIDENTS — On the avenue, Wabash Avenue that is, a couple of downtown Terre Haute businessmen shook hands to signal the happy completion of a transaction. Steve Owen is the new president of the Downtown Business Association, accepting the reigns, and congratulations, from Sid Levin, the immediate past president of the organization. Owen is manager of the Barker Shoe Store and Levin is president of the Corner Furniture Store.

City Planning Dept. Community Affairs File House of Photography Photo

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Vigo County Public Library

APR 27 1977

Free Downtown Community Affairs File Parking Boosts City Planning (T.H.) Saturday Sales

By J. BLAINE AKERS
Star Staff Writer

Free parking in the downtown business district during the weekends of April has apparently spurred retail sales, according to a survey conducted by the Downtown Business Association.

Results of the survey indicated that downtown businesses had increased sales during the last four weekends and 10 businesses reported normal to below normal sales.

Steve Owens, president of the DBA, said free parking on Saturdays probably influenced retail sales, however he would like to see the free parking concept extended through the month of May before drawing a conclusion.

"We must realize Easter was in April and many customers were buying new clothes, shoes, gift cards and small gifts. Even the merchants who did not report increases still want the free parking to continue. The trial period wasn't long enough to come to a conclusion, although I personally believe free parking is a solution to part of our problem," said Owens.

The Terre Haute Board of Public Works and Safety is to meet Wednesday to decide on whether or not the Saturday free parking should continue.

Jack Pierce, Osco Drug merchant, said free parking on Saturdays is a "small step in the right direction." He said, "Downtown beautification alone won't solve our problems. We must also have parking availability and promotional activities. We are beginning to get the cooperation of all downtown merchants and when Dr. Logan (John) and his committee complete their study I feel we will come up with feasible plans to inspire downtown business trade."

Dr. Logan's large research committee is studying the downtown problems with a goal of determining various short and long-range programs and projects to improve the area.

Pierce said businesses must offer price, product availability and convenience.

"Like the shopping malls, we (downtown businesses) can offer reasonable prices and good selection. Our problem is convenience and parking is a part of it" Pierce remarked.

Downtown merchants have instructed employees not to park their vehicles at downtown meters between U.S. 41 and 9½ Street. Owens and Pierce said employees, for the most part, have complied with the order.

Community Affairs File

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Vigo County Public Library

TE JUN 2 1977

Free Parking Downtown Discontinued

Community Affairs File

The free downtown parking permitted during the weekends of April and May has ended, according to the Terre Haute Board of Public Works.

Shoppers had been permitted to park downtown without having to feed the parking meters. The parking experiment was conducted during the two months, however it was decided Wednesday the plan would be terminated.

Endorsed by the Downtown Business Association, the free parking concept was an attempt to lure shoppers downtown in hopes of increasing sales.

A spokesman for the Board of Public Works said there had been no evidence to indicate the free parking plan had a direct influence on increased sales.

**REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File**

Construction starts April 1

Open bids on downtown projects

City Planning (T.H.) *Community Affairs File* **MAR 11 1978**
Contracts on the Phase One demonstration project for downtown Terre Haute improvement — the Sixth Street Improvement Project — are expected to be awarded next Wednesday with construction beginning April 1.

Bids ranging from less than \$300,000 for construction without landscaping to well over \$700,000 with landscaping and extended options were opened Friday. Funds reported available total about \$450,000 with a federal grant of \$347,000 and \$110,000 from Terre Haute Civic Improvement Inc., sponsoring the project.

Prof. Duane Sorensen of Indiana State University, executive director of the not-for-profit Improvement organization, expressed pleasure following the bid opening by the Terre Haute Board of Public Works and Safety and said awards would probably be conducted 2 p.m. next Wednesday.

The contracts bids involve basic construction, landscaping and three alternates to the construction plans developed by Landplus West of Muncie for the project on Sixth Street between Ohio and Cherry streets. Alternate 1 extends the development around the corners at the Wabash Avenue for a distance of about 120 feet east and west of Sixth. Alternate 2 deletes traffic islands on Sixth Street, included in the basic construction plan. And, Alternate 3 calls for additional work at the Cherry Street intersection.

A bid for basic construction, including landscaping, came from Mote Construction, Union City, in the amount of \$445,546.23; adding \$213,910.77 for Alternate 1, \$2,148.94 for Alternate 2 and \$57,569.08 for Alternate 3. Mote's bids for construction without landscaping were \$396,248.02, adding \$208,983.57 for Alternate 1, subtracting \$2,897.52 for Alternate 2 and adding \$52,834.98 for Alternate 3.

Progressive Construction and Engineering Co., Terre Haute, bid on the work without landscaping at \$284,212 with an addition of \$28,188 for Alternate 1, subtraction of \$1,727 for Alternate 2 and addition of \$39,659 for Alternate 3.

Also bidding on construction without landscaping was Ralph Rogers Construction, Bloomington, at \$405,226.54 plus \$35,298.12 for Alternate 1, less \$430.96 for Alternate 2 and plus \$44,203.63 for Alternate 3.

Bids on landscaping only came from Bunch Nurseries, Inc., Terre Haute, in the base amount of \$53,819.99, adding \$4,242.90 for Alternate 1, \$4,251.50 for Alternate 2 and \$4,488.60 for Alternate 3.

Also bidding on landscaping only was Doug Wearren, Jeffersontown, Ky., with a base bid of \$36,445.45 and additions of \$3,577.40 for Alternate 1, \$3,472 for Alternate 2 and \$3,702 for Alternate 3.

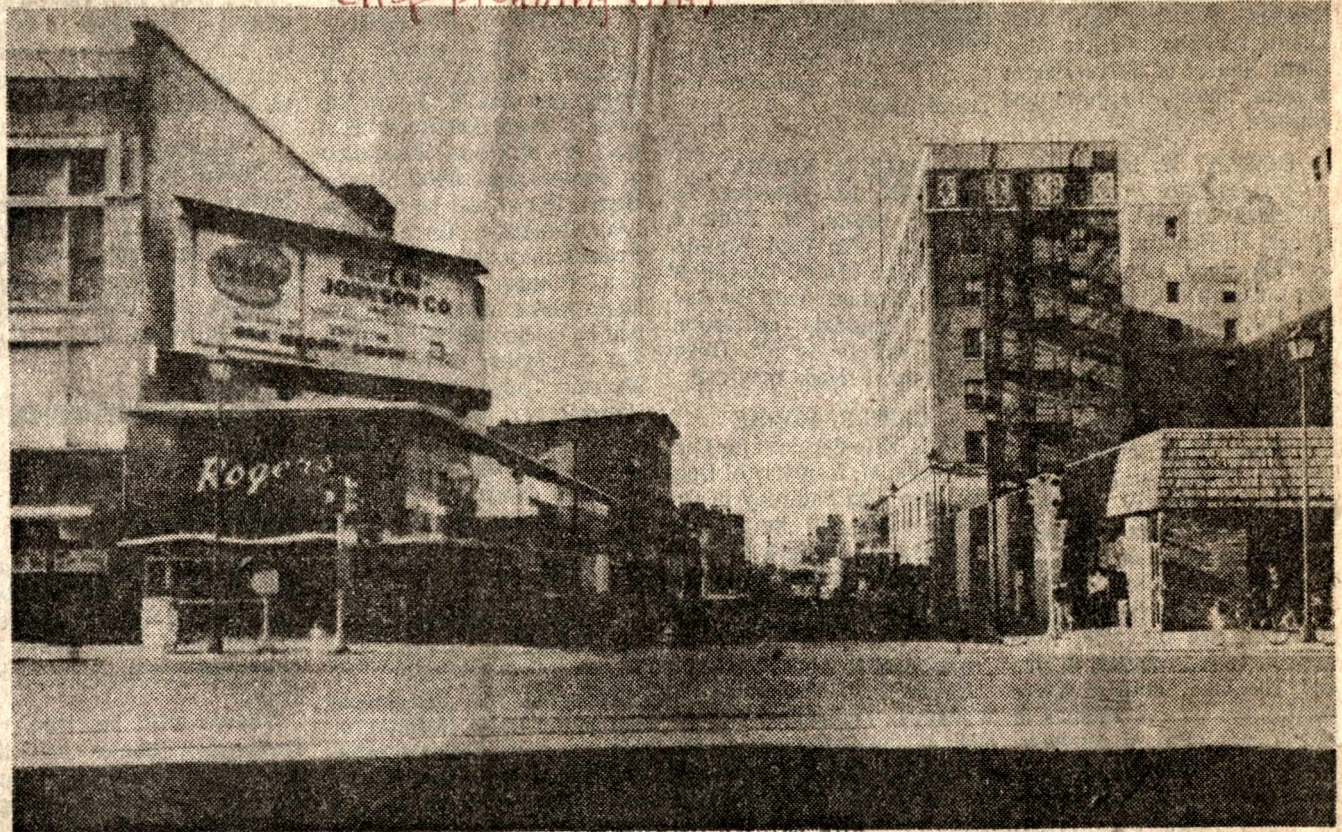
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T APR 3 1978

City Planning (S.H.)



AWAITING CHANGES — This downtown intersection at Sixth Street and Wabash Avenue is to be the focal point of major changes in the next few weeks. Groundbreaking ceremonies were to be conducted Monday afternoon to mark the beginning of construction on the Sixth Street Demonstration Project,

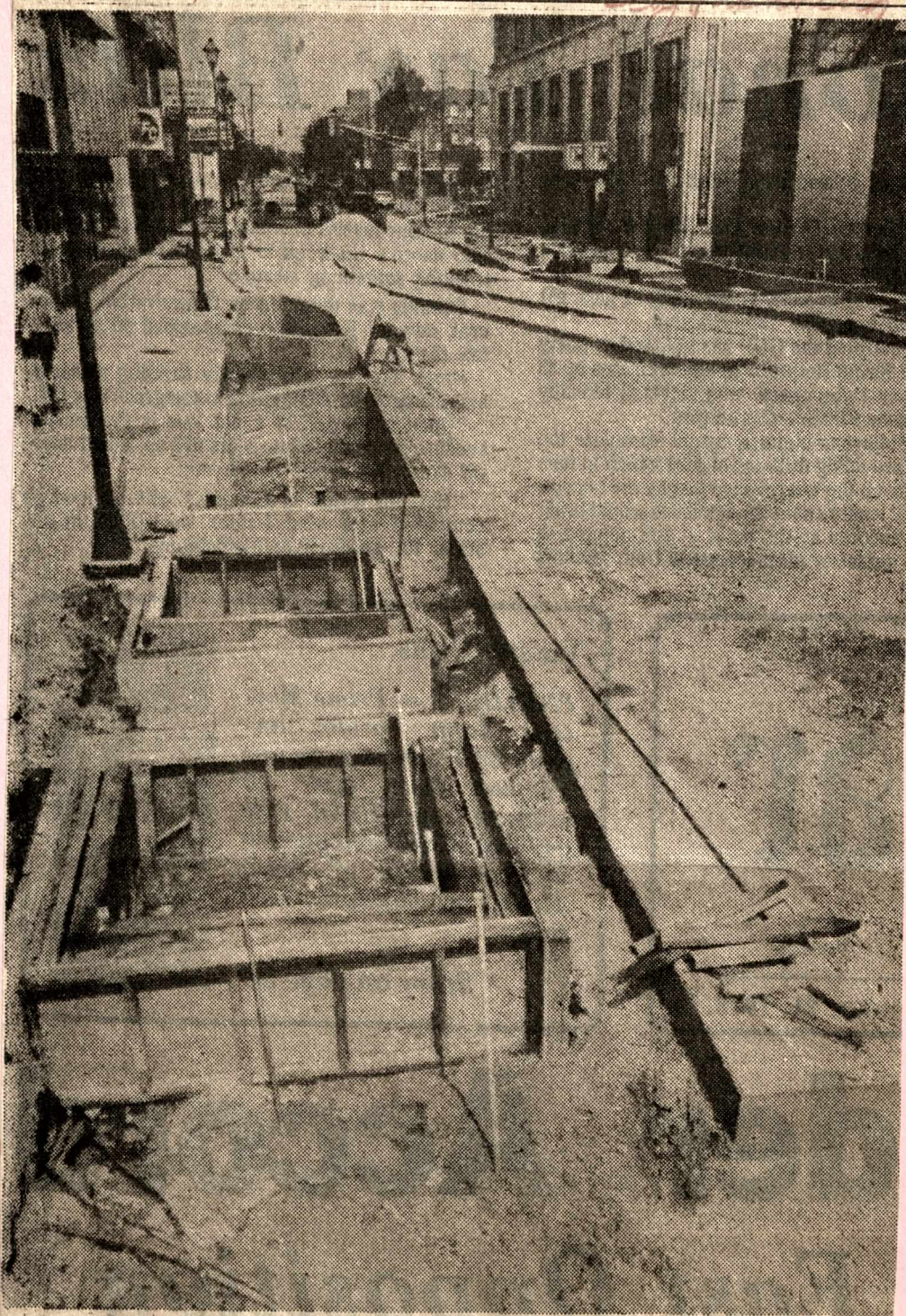
Community Affairs File
which will include new sidewalks, landscaping and several other changes east and west on Wabash Avenue at the intersection and north on Sixth Street to the Cherry Street intersection. The construction is viewed as a pilot project for improvements in the entire downtown area.

House of Photography

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PROJECT CONTINUES — Part of the downtown beautification project of renovating Sixth Street between Wabash Avenue and Cherry Streets is completed. This view shows some of the construction which has taken place in the past two months. Plans for renovating the former Deming Hotel, top left corner, were announced Wednesday. See stories on pages one and three for further details. (Star Photo: Kadel)

Before progress comes chaos!

City Planning (T.H.)

Sp MAY 27 1978



Terre Haute's downtown area looks like a war zone, but it's a sign of progress, downtowners keep repeating to themselves. At left is a view from the top of The Spectator building looking east. The Terre Haute Gas Corporation is relocating gas mains off of main streets and into the alleys in anticipation of future improvements in the downtown area. At right, the future is now as crews remove the old Sixth Street paving between Cherry and Wabash Avenues as part of the Sixth Street Demonstration Project. New streets, sidewalks and curbs will hopefully set the pace for future downtown renewal.

Photos by Orth

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Circle will be repaved: Burdick ^{Sp} APR 7 1979

City Planning (T.H.)

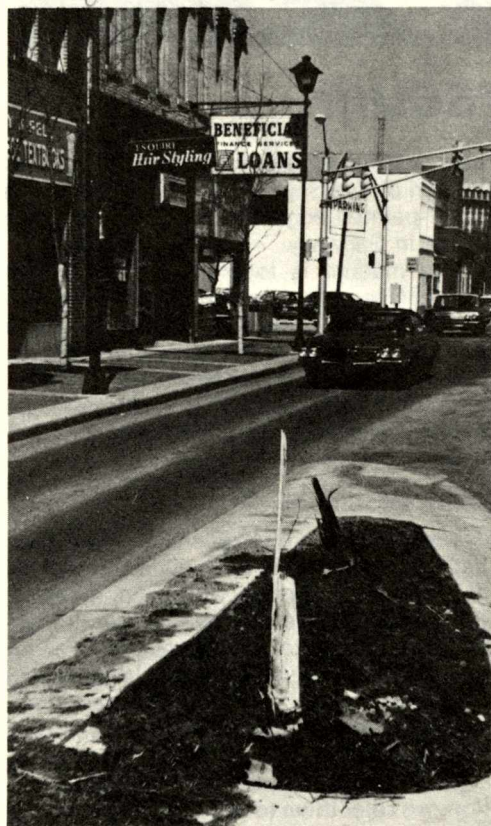


Photo by Orth

The "circle" at Sixth and Wabash will be repaved at no additional cost to taxpayers, City Engineer Jim Burdick said last week. The area, part of the Sixth Street Demonstration Project, sank during winter weather.

"We have retained \$30,000 of our payment to Progressive Construction to cover such matters," Burdick explained. "While the firm is no longer handling general construction, we have more than enough money to take care of the repaving," he said.

Burdick also noted that the city knows who knocked down trees in the project area, and will see that their replacement is paid for by the responsible parties.

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Vigo County Public Library

T NOV 1 1978

Streets (TH) City Planning (TH) Community Affairs File

Wabash Avenue could be open soon

Downtown traffic on Wabash Avenue may return to normal by the end of the week. Terre Haute City Engineer Jim Burdick announced in an interview Wednesday morning.

Burdick, whose office is overseeing the project, said work at the Wabash Avenue and Sixth Street intersection should be completed by Friday and

regular four lane traffic will be allowed through the central downtown area.

Wabash Avenue has been closed for several days as workmen tear up old pavement in the intersection and install an intricate brick layer in a circular pattern.

Burdick said the center of the brick

circle will be blacktopped to allow through traffic. A slight rise will be noticed by motorists, he commented, but it should not cause a problem.

Eventually, when the project is completed, two-lane traffic with a left-turn lane is expected for the intersection, Burdick said.

Work is to continue on the Sixth Street Demonstration Project from Wabash to Cherry, Burdick said. Tree and shrub planting is expected next week.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the project were conducted on April 3. It is said to be the first phase of a 10-year downtown revitalization project.

The TRIBUNE has received calls from merchants and residents questioning the length of time construction has taken on the project.

However, project officials say construction has gone "right on schedule."

Terre Haute Improvement Inc., which is heading the downtown revitalization effort, has applied for an Urban Development Action grant to pump federal and private dollars into downtown improvement.

According to the application, \$4.3 million UDAG money would go with \$46 million private investment capital and \$800,000 in State Highway Commission funds.

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City Planning (TH)

Community Affairs File

Drainage problem slated to be corrected

DEC 13 1978

By **BRYAN TAYLOR**
Tribune Staff Writer

Work on correcting a drainage problem on Wabash Avenue was scheduled to begin Wednesday morning, according to Jim Burdick, city engineer.

Water has been trapped in front of Hillman's Jewelers, 612 Wabash Ave., because of an improvement project at Sixth Street and Wabash Avenue, according to Burdick.

Curbs were extended into Wabash Avenue as part of the project and the runoff water does not pass properly, Burdick explained.

To alleviate the problem, an inlet is to be placed where the water currently is being trapped so it can flow freely, the engineer said.

Bedino Construction is to do the correction work, Burdick said. Actual

construction work may take about two days and some extra time may be needed for the street to settle after the work, he explained.

Traffic will not be blocked during the work, but motorists may have to use one lane for a period of time, the engineer said.

The trapped water and cold temperatures have resulted in an icy situation. The water has backed up approximately 40 feet, according to Burdick.

The Sixth Street Demonstration Project was completed earlier this fall. It includes trees, shrubs, benches and brick surfaces on streets and sidewalks.

The project is part of a major downtown improvement program in Terre Haute.

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City Planning (T.H.)

Begin Work Downtown

8 MAY 12 1978

Demolition work on sidewalks and curbing is expected to begin the early part of next week for the Sixth Street Improvement Project, according to a spokesman for the general contractors for the work.

Joseph Yuza of Progressive Construction Co. said Thursday that the company will set up Monday two trailers as field headquarters in the alley between Wabash Avenue and Cherry Street. One trailer will be placed east of Sixth Street and the other west of the street.

The Sixth Street Improvement project is the initial step in Phase I of the three-phase, long-range plan for rehabilitation and revitalization of downtown Terre Haute. The plan was initiated with the organization of Terre Haute Civic Improvement Inc., a non-profit group of business and civic leaders who a year ago met to discuss what could be done for the revitalization of the downtown area. The group was incorporated and Dr. John A. Logan serves as chairman of the board.

Yuza said the work will be done for the present project principally on Sixth Street. A curved island, with grassed in

area, will be placed approximately midway between Cherry Street and Wabash Avenue.

The asphalt paving of the street will be interspersed with decorative concrete bands and fancy curbings, with trees and planters on either side of Sixth Street. There will be a bus drop-off, or an indentation of the curbing in front of the Deming Hotel so that vehicles can pull out of the traffic on the street.

There will be planters and trees to the north and south of the indentation.

Yuza also said that there will be planters and flowers near the Sixth and Wabash intersection and wider walks on the west side of Sixth Street. There will be planters and decorative paving on each corner of Sixth and Wabash, and bollards, similar to old-fashioned hitching posts, placed on Sixth Street and at the corners of the Sixth and Wabash intersection.

Yuza emphasized that "we plan on minimizing the disruption" to local businesses in the area during the construction and "want the project to proceed with minimal discomfort for the merchants."

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Community Affairs File

Sixth Street Project —

Slight Drop In Business Noticed

By NELSON L. KANE
Star Staff Writer

A survey conducted with downtown merchants in connection with the Sixth Street Project showed trends in declining retail sales, but all believe the project will be beneficial once completed.

Steve Owens, president of the Downtown Business Association, and manager of Barker Shoe Store, 627 Wabash Ave., thought the project hadn't affected business very much.

"It has suffered some and it hindered sales that day Wabash Avenue was blocked off completely, but now, with the turn around in use, the problem has been helped considerably," he said.

Owens added he thought customers were reluctant to venture downtown due to the traffic problems caused by the sixth street project, "but now, there is available parking spots and people have already begun returning."

Mary West, store manager for Haag Drugs, located at the corner of Sixth Street and Wabash Avenue, said, "It's been hard for business for the past week or two. During a period of four days last week, our front doors had been wired shut because customers couldn't get to them when the sidewalks were tore up."

West mentioned had it not been for the double doors on the side entrance, people may not have gotten in. "With the sidewalks completely out in front of the store, the only entrance was from the side. I'm sure we lost several customers as a result, but it's getting better now," she said.

Hearing Scheduled

A public hearing for citizen comment on the federal funding application for downtown improvement has been set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Butterfly Room of the Terre Haute House, according to an announcement Friday by Kirby D. Smith, executive director of the Terre Haute Housing Authority and the Urban Development Action Grant program.

West offered no harsh words for the project either. "I realize they've got problems, too. They've had a lot of pressure from citizens about inconvenience and limited parking, but once the everything gets back to normal the improvements will be good."

Oscro Drugs' manager Ron Heath, 667 Wabash Ave., said customer traffic was very slow after Wabash Avenue had been blocked. "We've been dropping off since Wabash was torn up," he said. "And there's nothing we can do until the project is finished."

Ben Stein, manager of Rogers' Jewelers, 530 Wabash Ave., said business couldn't be better.

"Before this past week business had picked up, believe it or not," Stein said. "When Wabash and Sixth Street were torn up business didn't seem to slack off at all."

Chuck Galloway of Galloway's Photo

Shop offered a negative view towards the project.

"I would say the project is affecting sales by almost 25 percent," he said. "I'm sure it will be better in the long run, but right now business is hurting badly." Galloway added people don't want to fight the traffic to get to the store. "Most downtown merchants don't have anything extra to sell that a customer can't obtain at another outlet store. So when it becomes difficult to reach our stores, people go elsewhere for the product and that leaves us with no business."

Both Esquire's Barber Shop manager Ken Thomas and Stiegers Fur manager Irving Biegel feel business has dropped somewhat.

Thomas said, "Several of our regular customers haven't been showing up due to the shop's inaccessibility to the customers."

Esquire is located at 30 N. Sixth St., which is in the middle of the improvement project.

Biegel contends, "We've lost business because people couldn't get to the street and or due to the small width of the new sidewalks that have been constructed."

He added, however, Stiegers Fur has been in Terre Haute for 66 years and it has what he termed "regular customers".

"People know who we are, those who are regular customers, so they'll come in regardless of the circumstances. Also, once the project is completed I believe it might draw more people downtown."

Downtown Hotel-Motel Center Feasibility Study Under Way

City Planning TH

S DEC 20 1978

A feasibility study is expected to be completed in about two months on location of a downtown hotel-motel center, Kirby Smith, executive director of the Terre Haute Housing Authority, said Monday.

He made the comment to The Star in connection with the suggestion in the Jim Burns study of downtown improvement that possibly use of the Terre Haute House as housing for the elderly should be re-thought and its use as a hotel-motel convention center be considered.

Burns, San Francisco planning consultant who conducted a series of workshops on downtown improvement, prepared a 29-page report distributed to Terre Haute Civic Improvement Inc. board members and the Housing Authority. Other facets of the report were discussed in The Star last week.

"Without a feasibility study, ordered by the Bethesda Corp., it would be inappropriate to make any recommendation for the Terre Haute House as a hotel-motel," Smith said. "If this study shows a convention center motel-hotel is feasible for the

Terre Haute House, that would be a possibility. HUD (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) has reserved funds for elderly housing at the Terre Haute House and Bethesda still has that reservation."

The study is being made by Lavalent and Horwath, a national accounting firm, from its Chicago office, Smith said.

The Burns report also projected the author's suggestion for "mixed tenancy housing" toward the east on Wabash Avenue to serve not only the elderly, but also others who would like to live in an urban setting and use facilities envisioned in a downtown improvement plan.

Such housing, Smith commented, would increase viability in downtown if the area were to become a "24-hour a day neighborhood."

"The idea of mixed use is good," he added, "but how could this kind of housing be built at a price the market could bear? What the city needs is some new unsubsidized housing and unsubsidized rehabilitated housing."

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Community Affairs File

Design Expert Hired to Assist City Planning (TH) Downtown Improvement Group

T MAY 11 1977

By COLLEEN SIMS
Tribune Staff Writer

One of the top planning and design consultants in the country has been hired to work on the downtown improvement project, according to Dr. John A. Logan, executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission who is commissioner of the Downtown Improvement Committee.

Richard P. Dober and Associates, located in Cambridge, Mass., is one of two or three outstanding agencies in planning and design consulting in the U.S. and also has international experience, Dr. Logan reported.

Dober and Associates is a multi-disciplinary office providing professional services to affect and improve the already built environment. The firm

works particularly with clients wishing to alter the physical environment through planning processes, such as the goal for downtown improvement in Terre Haute.

"How to make these places human in scale, truly accessible, functional, economic, visually delightful, open to change yet respectful of continuity, is a difficult challenge — but one the office enjoys addressing and resolving with full commitment," Dober stated, according to information provided by Logan Wednesday.

The clients and commissions of Dober and Associates include over 100 colleges, universities and health and research centers. The firm also has worked with many other cities, including Boston.

The firm has been contracted by the

Downtown Improvement Committee, a group of about 20 concerned citizens working to find possible alternatives to the proposed downtown beautification project.

Final plans for a downtown beautification project, which had been delayed for several years, were revealed early in February. The project was again delayed when several downtown businessmen stated they felt the proposed plan would not solve the existing problems in the downtown area.

Since that time, the Downtown Improvement Committee has been formulated with the purpose of providing alternatives to the plan. Those alternatives are to be completed July 1.

The Dober staff is to coordinate efforts to provide the alternative plans, according to Dr. Logan. The firm is to work with those already involved in the planning, including teams from Indiana State University and Indiana University, a women's advisory group, Kirby Smith of the Housing Authority (due to the proposed location of housing units in the old Deming Hotel and the Terre Haute House) and Bob Payne and Harold Baker of the Department of Redevelopment.

The Dober team has already been in Terre Haute to begin its studies by photographing and mapping as well as meeting with individuals and groups in fact finding and work sessions. They are to spend several weeks in Terre Haute during the next month and a half, Dr. Logan said.

One proposal by the firm for getting public input into the plan has been for the committee to take over one of the abandoned buildings in the downtown area during June to show the public the current plans and to obtain the public's opinions on possible alternatives, Dr. Logan reported.

The Downtown Improvement Committee is to participate in progress reports and working sessions with the entire planning team on May 20 and June 6. The final strategy plan for downtown Terre Haute is to be distributed at the final public meeting June 30.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

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Go-Ahead Sign Given For Community Project

Community Affairs File

City Planning (T.H.)

T JUL 1 1977

By COLLEEN SIMS
Tribune Staff Writer

The "go-ahead" sign has been given for a strategy for improvements in downtown Terre Haute and action is already under way to provide for some of those improvements.

A long-range concept for improvements in the downtown area was presented to the Downtown Improvement Committee for consideration Thursday

and action was quickly taken to approve that concept.

In immediate action, the committee took the initial steps to become incorporated in order to carry out some of the strategy elements outlined in the concept.

The concept accepted by the committee was coordinated by Richard P. Dober and Associates, one of the top planning and design consultant firms in the country, with assistance from teams

from Indiana State University and Indiana University, a Women's Advisory Committee, some municipal officials and the public.

In the meeting approving the concept, the committee took preliminary action to become a corporation, according to Paul J. Pfister, a member of the committee.

★ That corporation, named Terre Haute Civic Improvement, Inc., is to be formed to oversee the improvement projects.

In the name of the corporation, the word "downtown" was purposely eliminated, according to Pfister. He said the word was left out because "downtown is not the only thing the committee concerns itself with — it concerns itself with the whole community."

He added it has been stated several times that the need for improvement in the downtown area is a "community problem, not a downtown problem."

Attorney Myrl Wilkinson, a member of the Downtown Improvement Committee, was selected to work with the committee in obtaining its corporation status. Pfister said Wilkinson is to file the necessary papers with the Secretary of State's office and the Vigo County clerk.

The members of the Downtown Improvement Committee were named as directors of the corporation.

The directors are to be Mayor William Brighton, Dr. William Bannon, Richard Beard, Robert Boyer, Pete Chalos, Marsee Cox, Larry Helman, Tony Hulman, Dr. Richard Landini, John Logan, Sid Levin, Lucien Meis and Jack Neaderhiser.

Also, other directors are Robert Payne, Pfister, John Scott, Richard Schultz, Forrest Sherer, Don Smith, Kirby Smith, James E. Sullivan, Richard White and Wilkinson.

Community Affairs File

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(over)

Dr. Logan, who headed up the Downtown Improvement Committee, has also been selected to be chairman of the corporation's board of directors.

An executive committee selected from the board of directors consists of Boyer, Meis, Pfister, Schultz and Don Smith.

A meeting of the proposed corporation is scheduled for next Wednesday for the election of officers.

Community Affairs File



DISCUSSING DOWNTOWN STRATEGY — Some of the key persons involved in the steps being taken toward improvements in downtown Terre Haute discuss a 10-year strategy plan for those improvements presented to and approved by the Downtown Improvement Committee Thursday. Pictured, left to right, are Richard P. Dober of Richard P. Dober and Associates, a design and planning consultant firm which has worked to develop the overall concept; Dr. John A. Logan, who has been heading the Downtown Improvement Committee; Duane Sorensen, working on the project from Indiana State University; and Terre Haute Mayor William J. Brighton

House of Photography Photo



AFTER THE BLITZ?—The scene from Cherry St. looking south to the Vigo County Courthouse resembles the day after a bombing raid but is one of the final steps in an urban renewal project. The block between Second and Third on Wabash is being cleared of buildings and will be leveled for future development.

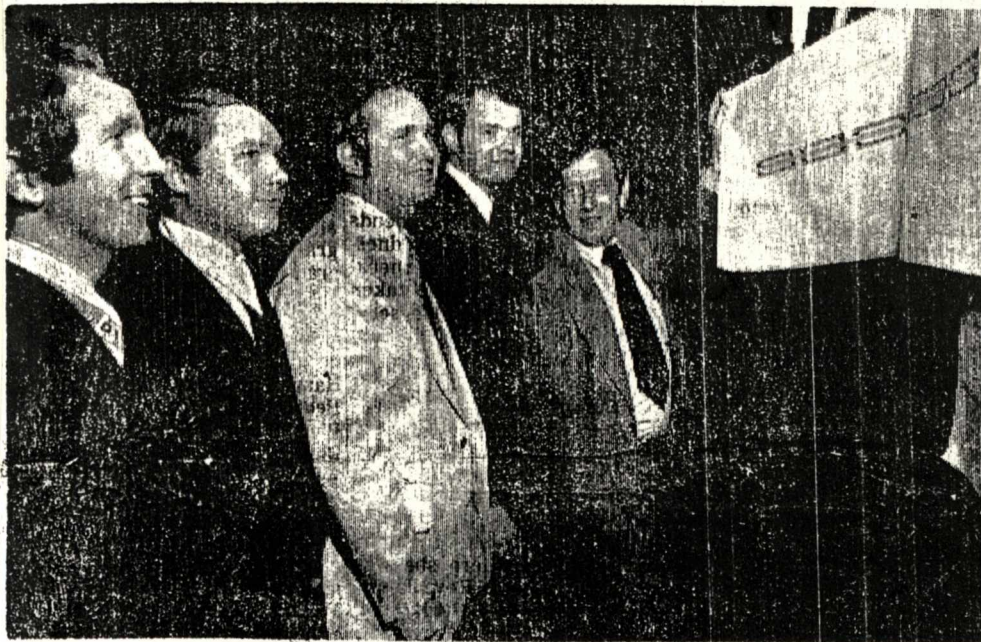
Photo by Martin.

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Unveil

Beautification Plans



VIEW PROJECT SKETCH — Mayor William J. Brighton, background, holds the artist's sketch of the \$337,018 downtown beautification project while administrative assistant Warner Paige III and members of the West Central Indiana Economic Development District view the plan. Standing left to right are John Sheehan, Charles Staats, Jerry Dooley, all of the WCIEDD, Paige and Brighton. (Photo by Kadel)

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Downtown City Planning Merchants Community Affairs File Get Facts

5 MAY 2 1970

By BLAINE AKERS

Star Staff Writer

Mayor William J. Brighton and Administrative Assistant Warner Paige III addressed Terre Haute downtown merchants and landowners Tuesday night with the official announcement of the downtown beautification project expected to cost \$337,018.

"Terre Haute is on top of a bubble, exclaimed Brighton, and it's going to take the whole-hearted effort of each of you merchants to ignite the fire and get this project going."

Discussion of the project centered around the proposed change in parking along Wabash Avenue. Paige told merchants that plans include the implementation of angle parking, which according to survey will increase the downtown parking area by some 81 spaces.

+ + +

"Parking will be an important factor in the downtown project," said Paige. "We will be discouraging through traffic and encouraging parkers," he added.

John Sheehan, staff planner of the West Central Indiana Development District, briefed merchants on details of the newly proposed angle parking plan. "Parking spaces will be constructed at 30 degree angles. The width of the space will be 8.7 feet and this will allow a person to get out of his car without hitting the car parked

the parking spaces had been suggested as wide as ten feet.

+ + +

Sheehan responded to Dunbar's inquiry, stating, "When you are talking about parking, the usage of space is most important factor. Our surveys show that the proposed plan allows sufficient space for parking motorists."

Other changes in the present parking plan would include the removal of bus and taxi loading areas along Wabash Avenue and restricted parking within an area of 35 feet from each corner.

Parking meters presently standing will be removed and then replaced with 190 to 213 meters, according to Paige.

Paige had earlier identified the massive \$337,000 project as a three phase plan and parking was the final phase of the entire scheme.

The first step in the three-phase project will concern enhancement of pedestrian movement. This will include a large scaled scheme for landscaping and a dynamic new marketing plan.

Landscaping plans call for the planting of shade trees every 50 feet along Wabash Avenue and flowering trees, such as red-buds, shrubs and evergreens, will be planted every 25 feet along the avenue.

+ + +

Merchants questioned the cost of maintenance for the new landscaping idea and Paige responded by saying, "We have studied what types of trees and plants should be grown and we feel we're offering you the right plan with a low maintenance cost."

Paige noted that the trees and plants to be used in the downtown

area have a low growth rate, a low rate on loss of leaves and after the first year, watering of these plants will cost little.

It was pointed out that Mayor Brighton and his downtown committee are planning to employ two or three men from the Parks Department to handle the landscaping maintenance.

The Mayor's Administrative Assistant paid a personal tribute to Public Service Indiana when he announced that the cost of a new "traditional" lighting project would be "picked up" by PSI.

+ + +

"We are greatly indebted to Public Service Indiana for their interest in downtown Terre Haute. We're going to have new light fixtures which produce a greater amount of light and at no charge to the city," stressed Paige.

Another highlight to the downtown project is the construction of arcades at 4½ and 5½ streets. The present arcade at 6½ Street will be renovated and a fountain is planned to be built at its entrance.

Sculptoring will create focal points at 4½ and 5½ streets, according to Paige. The arcades will include planters, park benches, new lighting and new paving of alley ways.

Plans for the new eastend "Y" traffic pattern were discussed at Tuesday's meeting.

+ + +

"The eastend 'Y' is an important part of our overall plan to attract out-of-town shoppers and tourists to the Terre Haute area," stated Paige.

Proposed plans call for the construction of sculptured figures at each end of the "Y" traffic pattern. The art work would be designed near the Civic Amphitheater on the east-end and the Wabash River Bridge at the west-end.

By-passing motorists traveling west on Wabash Avenue will be rerouted at Ninth Street. At this point the west-bound traffic will pick-up at Cherry Street and will exit at the west-end "Y."

Motorists traveling east and wanting to bypass downtown Terre Haute will take Ohio Street and will then be able to return to Wabash Avenue via Eleventh Street. Both 9th and 11th streets will undergo geometric alterations as well as changes in signalization.

Paige indicated the new "Y" traffic network may be completed by this October.

+ + +

"A great deal of work has gone into this project, noted Brighton, and we've had our ups and downs in attempting to obtain federal aid. But federal aid has gone by the boards and now we must meet the challenge ourself."

Chamber of Commerce President Ralph Tucker addressed the merchants prior to the announcement of the downtown plans and said, "This is something Terre Haute cannot afford to let slip by. The time is now and we must get involved. I have long been interested in the development of downtown Terre Haute and I pledge my full support in this project which will benefit us in so many ways," remarked Tucker.

The next step in the downtown revitalization project is for members of the Mayor's Com-

mittee to collect costs from each merchant. Within the next two days, committeemen will begin soliciting and it is hoped that by June 1 all money will be collected.

Itemized estimated costs for the project are revamping of sidewalks from Third Street to Ninth Street, \$153,000; curbing, \$34,450; landscaping, \$85,000; arcades, \$15,600; architect and engineering fees, \$20,163 and contingency fees, \$28,805. Public Service will account for costs of new light ornaments and installation.

3 MAY 2 1973

Downtown

Continued From Page 1

next to him with his door," remarked Sheehan.

Arch Dunbar questioned the width of the proposed parking spaces, noting, "With the making of the larger and more modern automobile these days, I can't see how you're allowing enough space for the parking of these cars," quizzed Dunbar.

Dunbar pointed out that during an earlier meeting of the Mayor's Committee for Downtown Beautification, the width of

Improvement City Planning, T.H. Plans Carried By Businesses

T APR 25 1973

By JAMES McHARGUE

Tribune Staff Writer

Mayor William Brighton Wednesday announced that plans to revitalize the downtown area will go ahead despite the fact that all federal funds have been cut off.

Brighton said the funds for the downtown beautification program will come from the merchants and businesses and will involve no tax money whatsoever.

Originally, the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development was to provide \$300,000 to help finance the project, but due to federal spending cutbacks the funds are no longer available.

The total cost of the project will be about \$300,000.

Plans for the project have not yet been completed, but will definitely include a general beautification project, increased public parking facilities, modernized lighting, new sidewalks, curbs and guttering along Wabash Avenue from 3rd to 9th Streets.

The Mayor's Committee on Downtown Beautification investigated eight different proposals and plans and are now in the process of incorporating three of those plans into one.

All downtown property owners and tenants affected by the modernization plan will meet Tuesday evening at the Terre Haute House to discuss final proposals.

At the meeting Tuesday, Warner Paige II, administrative assistant to Mayor Brighton and a downtown businessman, will give estimates of costs and the methods of financing the project.

Brighton commented on the project:

"Terre Haute would receive many benefits from a downtown beautification project, including better traffic flow patterns, protected tax base, creation of civic pride and inducement for new merchants to invest in the central business district.

"With the new Indiana State University Civic Amphitheater downtown, this project could help draw tourists and conventions to the city. People would enjoy shopping downtown.

"It would also help the businesses on Wabash Avenue compete on a better basis with the merchants located outside the corporate limits of the city."

Paige, who has been working the project for several months, added:

"Since there is no chance for us to get federal monies any other way, the merchants will have to do it on their own."

"The Downtown Business Association has been very helpful throughout the planning and is still making arrangements to

aid in the completion of the project."

The beautification program is expected to raise property values and increase sales for the merchants and tenants.

Paige also noted that since there will be no state or federal monies involved, there would be no interference from government red tape in completing the project.

The Mayor's Committee for Downtown Beautification has met several times now and includes members from all segments of the downtown business community.

Members are Thomas Finnerly, Don Smith, Robert Peterson, Howard Potter, John Newlin, Paul Pfister, Lucien Meis, Forrest Sherer, Pete Lamb and Eugene Trummel.

Also, George Miller, Robert Lee, Walter McMahon, Robert Schultz, Warner Paige III, Morris Blumberg, Donald Hilt, Jerry Austin and Arch Dunbar.

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ours— City Planning Downtown details

Sp OCT 22 1977

Details have emerged about Phase I of the downtown improvement project and all of a sudden the realization is dawning that something is really going to happen.

At a meeting last week, representatives of Landplus West, a Muncie architectural landscaping firm, showed preliminary sketches of their ideas which have been funded to the tune of \$347,000 by the Federal government.

Basically, the initial money will be spent on streetscape on Sixth Street between Cherry and Ohio Streets. That isn't going to makes everybody happy and that was obvious at the meeting.

Merchants along Wabash Avenue would understandably prefer to see the project begin there. However, sufficient money is not available to make the impact there, officials argue.

In addition, the Sixth Street area adjoins Indiana State University and school officials have promised to cooperate with the project on the other side of Cherry. The old Deming Hotel will shortly be converted to housing for the elderly and the street improvement project will nicely dovetail into those plans.

For the most pessimistic, planners offer the argument that if the project isn't the kind of thing Terre Haute will like, at least the damage will be contained to a small area.

We think the results will be pleasing and that it just might serve as the catalyst which is needed to improve the whole downtown area.

Last week's meeting was valuable, for pro and con discussion surfaced on a variety of issues relating to the downtown, and the end result was a positive spirit of cooperation and action.

It was unfortunate that more of the downtown business and financial leaders including many members of the Downtown Improvement Association, did not attend. It was also unfortunate that the meeting was not originally planned to be clearly open to all interested persons.

Most residents of Terre Haute want to see the downtown area improved, but there are different theories, old wounds, remnants of cynicism and pessimism, and a lack of knowledge about the general problem.

Those problems can be solved two ways: first, by public participation in the process; second, by concrete accomplishments.

It now is certain that the second will happen, but open public participation can certainly aid general acceptance of the entire project. After all, it is the public which will eventually use--or not use--the downtown improvements.

Keep Canal

Dear Editor:

If the President can have his way, we will soon be abandoning portions of our power and privilege in the Canal Zone, with total abandonment of control only twenty-two years from now. We are giving up power to



"Give me a break, fellas—we're on the same team, after all!"

the Panamanian government--mark that well--when one grants power to another, one does give up the right to exercise that power oneself. Not only do we give up privilege and power, we rather blindly agree to retain the duty to defend the canal--which could, and probably will, be interpreted as an obligation to defend the Torrijos government from internal revolution.

Let's keep one thing in mind. Panama is a third world country. 89% of its population is non-White. It is a good guess that the Panamanians hate the United States, as do most all the other third world countries, and of course they do. We are White, we have money and power, we are cultured and stable--they are none of these things. This hate will not turn into affection with concessions to Panama. Hate does not turn into love, it turns into contempt. If the present treaty, which grants the Panamanians all sorts of money and honor in the Zone, is not sufficient to mollify them, no treaty will be. The generous terms of Carter's treaty will not be seen as an act of good will to be emulated, but as an act of weakness to be exploited.

Assuming, just for fun, that the Panamanian government really would try to keep the canal operative and to remain friendly to the United States. (The Egyptian government, against its own economic advantage, closed the Suez Canal, you'll remember).

Why should we assume they're capable of it? The newly-freed third world nations in Africa seem incapable of maintaining the hospitals Europeans built for them, much less a complex engineering construct such as the Panama Canal.

Last but not least, the treaty will be an invitation for more of the same. We have a base in Cuba, Guantanamo, that we could easily give to Castro in another gesture of Western-Hemisphere solidarity. We have a strong ally in the Taiwanese government, that could easily be delivered up to the Red Chinese. We have an ally in Rhodesia, which offered us troops to use in Viet Nam--but wait, we're already negotiating to destroy that ally.

The President abhors governments like those of Chile, the Soviet Union, and Uganda (though he makes the most fuss about Rhodesia and South Africa), which do not consult their people to make policy--that's what majority rule means, after all. Maybe he should be reminded that even if he can browbeat Congress into approving his little treaty, he would still be in violation of his own principle of majority rule, because THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WANTS TO KEEP THAT CANAL. Write him a letter. Remind him.

Sincerely,
Rex F. May
West Terre Haute

Reworking downtown

By Fred J. Nation

While "The Strategy for Improvement for Downtown Terre Haute" final report was prepared by Richard Dober and Associates, that concise plan (Spectator, July 16) was the culmination of a variety of studies, meetings, and research on what could be done in the city center.

Two other written reports were also prepared by other consultants and they were fed into the process which culminated with the Dober strategy.

While many ideas in both reports (and indeed also the Dober report) were purely speculative, they offer different viewpoints on the downtown, viewpoints which give valuable perspective on the local scene.

One report was compiled by the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. It included historical and economic data about the community as well as suggestions on the downtown physical, financial and tax environment.

The other report was done by Jim Burns, a San Francisco-based planner-theorist, who was called in early in the organizing effort to help focus the direction of those interested in downtown improvement. Burns had been in Terre Haute in 1975 to include the city in a book he was writing about recycling cities.

Both the IU group and Burns came away from their work convinced that downtown Terre Haute has a future and, perhaps more importantly, there appears to be the vigorous local support needed to get the job done.

Burns wasn't so sure at first. Speaking of his first impressions, Burns said "The forms, qualities, uses and continuity of the physical environment were literally disappearing before people's very eyes. The pervasive flood of asphalt and on-grade parking threatened to engulf what three-dimensional environment remained. To the observer from elsewhere, the city seemed to be visibly fleeing to somewhere else, leaving desolation behind."

But Burns says he discovered downtown has a will to live and he advanced a number of suggestions for downtown renewal. It should be noted that all reports which have been done are only suggestions.

While the Dober report concluded that ramp parking is not financially feasible downtown Burns's sentiments are clearly with ramp parking as part of the solution be put parking in the "right" places. He suggests five low-level (not to exceed three stories) parking nodes around the near perimeter of downtown. "Multiple-level parking is a necessity if Terre Haute's downtown is to be freed from its bonds of asphalt again," Burns says.

Burns would combine on-street and off-street parking with the ramps, but he strongly recommends locating off-street parking out of sight. "The demoralizing aspect of downtown today, thanks to demolition and asphaltting over, is that, in Gertrude Stein's words "There is no there there." Screened lots would help that

aspect. Burns also suggests a free mini-bus system downtown moving among the nodes.

While some of Burns's views on parking are unlikely to be implemented, one that has priority with Terre Haute Civic Improvement, Inc. (the corporation which has emerged from early downtown planning) is formation of an authority to plan and regulate parking lots, their location, use and design. The IU report also favors such an authority.

Burns recognizes the need for consumers to be able to park within a couple of blocks of their destination, though he notes that people walk as far or farther in a shopping center such as Honey Creek as they would have to in downtown.

Burns's real interest is the pedestrian and he is enthusiastic about the possibilities downtown. "There already exists in downtown Terre Haute a web of on-street sidewalks and inner-block alleyways that can be easily transformed into a lively and handsome network of pedestrianways for people's use," he notes.

He suggests replanning and designing the alley system for pedestrian purposes, thereby doubling or tripling the frontages of buildings on view and available to potential users. He foresees a knitting together of the university, elderly and business populations in the downtown with small shops and service establishments thriving.

Burns emphasizes the need for public open spaces downtown, something that is obviously lacking now. "Courtyards, plazas and small parks should add to people's everyday uses of their city and become positive parts of the life there." Such "out-door rooms" could be used for art exhibits, places for craftsmen to show their wares, assembly areas. "Parklets" with two benches and a table, shaded by trees, could occur in small spaces as someplace for a snack or a game of checkers. A larger plaza with fountains and greenery could become a focal point, he suggests.

"Downtown Terre Haute is currently surrounded by greenery but barren of it in many needed places. It is time to bring it in," Burns suggests.

Burns also emphasizes the need to utilize

the river, perhaps with a marina and boat trips.

He is also excited about the potential of converting many existing buildings to other uses. The Dober plan incorporates most of his suggestions for reuse of the main Library (which now will be turned over to ISU by the city and will probably be used as a public building/museum), the old YWCA (a possible conference center), the train shed at Tenth and Wabash (possibly a farmer's market), the Big Four Railroad Station (a possible arts and crafts area) the current Swope Block and old opera house (see story on next page.)

Burns does urge that local citizens oppose relocation of the existing post office to a new site west of Third Street. "It would be folly to move it blocks away across an impassable barrier (U.S. 41), approachable only by private automobile," he says.

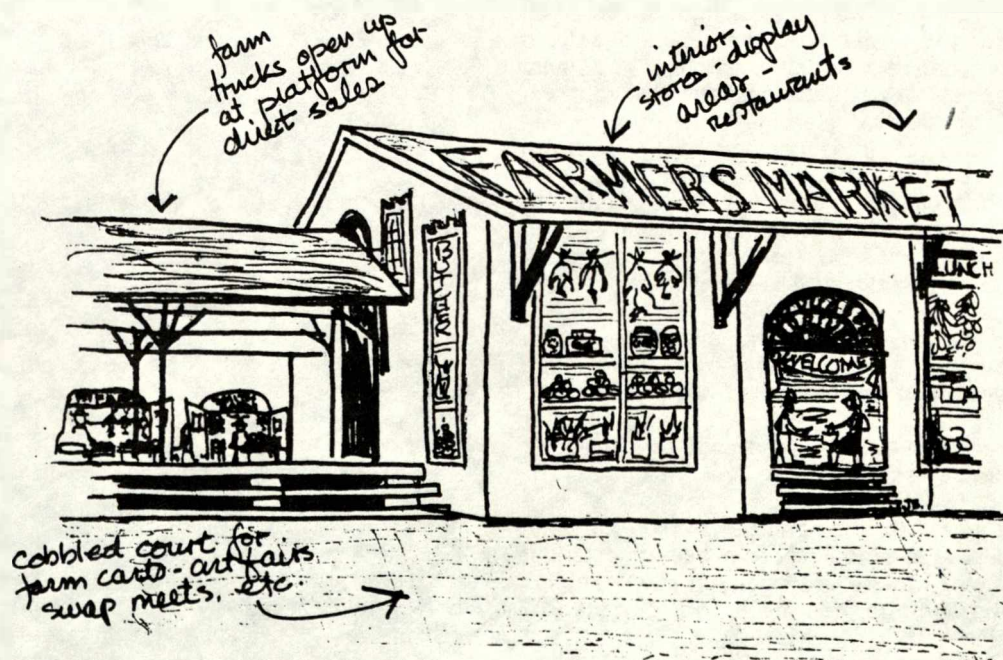
The Burns report goes on to suggest a number of other points, some of which will be covered next week.

The IU report is compatible with the Burns report and also the eventual Dober strategy. It recommends against major destruction in the downtown area because of the historic and symbolic importance of the buildings. The IU report sees the downtown as primarily a service center with a compacted retail area more accessible to foot traffic. It recommends the retail area be concentrated between Fourth Street and Sixth and a half along Wabash.

Both the IU and the Burns report suggest private development of a new motor hotel downtown. The IU report suggests Seventh and Wabash, while the Dober report tabs the block between Eighth and Ninth as a good location.

Burns' enthusiasm for the old opera house is shared by the IU team, which suggests conversion of the building into "Wabash Center," an informational and display area at Third and Ohio streets.

The ideas have been suggested, the machinery for a beginning is now in existence, but the problems are there also. Implementing the plans will take major accomplishments in the area of taxation and financing. Next week, The Spectator will report on those areas.



Conversion of the old train shed at Tenth and Wabash.

City Planning (Title)
Downtown Improvement
Committee

Up, up, and maybe away: center city tries to take off

by Fred J. Nation

Renaissance or rehash?

That is the question many Terre Hauteans are asking in the wake of the latest wave of interest in saving the downtown.

After years of proposals, counter-proposals, plots, schemes, grand and not-so-grand ideas, most of Terre Haute's leadership gathered recently to hear city planner Richard Dober unveil a concept for downtown put together in less than two months under the director of retired Rose-Hulman president Dr. John Logan.

What emerged was a bit renaissance and a bit rehash, but it was a blend that appealed to the men and the women present for the unveiling and may be the most palatable solution yet proposed for the downtown problem.

The Dober document was called ["A Strategy for Improvement"] and that was an apt description of the concise but information-packed broadsheet.

"What is being proposed is a series of pragmatic steps that use known future changes strategically, shrewdly, comprehensively," the document said.

Absent were any plans for a Wabash Avenue mall ("first because of cost and secondly the compounding traffic problems") or for parking ramps. The concept saw no large scale demolition of existing buildings, thereby side-stepping the complaints and hard feelings still leftover from urban renewal days.

What the Dober plan does is attempt to take predictable developments involving the downtown, government and Indiana State University, add some "it-would-be-nice-if" ideas, blend in some optional pieces of tax incentives and relief, project some private investment projects and call for a maximum of ten years for it all to happen.

A lot of the ingredients of the plan may happen anyway, but now the city has a concept for all of these potential developments to fit into and that be not only valuable, but conducive to the actual happening.

The three-phase program is already un-

DOWNTOWN TERRE HAUTE STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT

Sp JUL 16 1977



derway. The legal proceedings to form the Terre Haute Civic Improvement Association have already begun, and Dr. Logan has agreed to serve as continuing chairman of the effort.

However, Dr. Logan's involvement will be scaled down somewhat, as he must resume his normal duties as executive director of the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission.

Duane Sorensen and his Center for Economic Development at Indiana State University will be working with Logan and the Civic Improvement Association to make things happen.

Sorensen is anxious to get moving quickly. "The object is to show some physical activity within two or three months downtown," Sorensen says.

Sorensen says the group will probably move first to establish design criteria for parking lots, probably the outstanding feature of Terre Haute's downtown landscape.

Such criteria might involve the formation of a parking authority with limited power over parking lots, including future use as well as design.

Parking is a big topic of debate downtown and while plenty of spaces are available, they aren't always at the most convenient locations, Sorensen notes. With all of the demolition in recent years, the number of parking lots has increased dramatically. While functional, the lots do little to improve the aesthetic image of Terre Haute.

While parking improvement may be one of the first targets, Sorensen is quick to note that all segments of all three phases will be worked on concurrently.

Phase One will include use of ground floor spaces in the former Deming Hotel and Terre Haute House, promotion of reuse of vacant spaces downtown and planning of pedestrian links with ISU (see accompanying story), among other projects.

Phase Two will center around ISU and its relationship to downtown, particularly the location of a planned performing arts center, probably north of Cherry Street between Fifth and Sixth streets.

Phase Three might include construction of a new motor hotel downtown, a new Swope Art Gallery and a new office building.

Several of the key components of the plan will be discussed in detail in next week's issue of *The Spectator*.

While there are many facets to the plan, they will only be attained if enough cooperation is gained among local property owners, merchants, and representatives of government and education.

The Dober plan is a good step in the right direction, according to most of the persons who have been involved so far. More important than the elements of the plan is the feeling of consensus that has been developed by Logan, Dober et. al.

For the first time in memory, virtually all interests are in at least general agreement about the direction. Mayor William Brighton, who has supported efforts to revitalize downtown, noted that this appears to him to be the first time everybody has been in the same boat, rowing in the same direction.

The crunch may be yet to come, but the feeling now is definitely upbeat downtown.

fifty years ago

*Large commercial building
to be erected on Cherry*

L. E. Waterman, of the Deming Land Company, has purchased a strip of property, fronting on Cherry, from Paul Kuhn, and will start construction of an attractive commercial building. Mr. Waterman purchased a frontage of 153 feet on Cherry, extending back to the alley, a depth of more than 141 feet.

The new building will be known as the Cherry building and will be just east of the Deming garage, which was erected by Mr. Waterman through the Deming Land company about four years ago. Two old brick residences which now are located on the site, and which have been an eyesore for years, are to be torn down.

*Reconstruction of Phoenix Club
appears doubtful presently*

The reconstruction of the Phoenix Country club house, which was destroyed by fire July 4, appears very doubtful at this time. Although there are several of the members who are anxious to rebuild, there are others who question the advisability of making such an expenditure under existing circumstances.

There is a possibility that the city may enter into negotiations for the purchase of the property as an addition to Highland Lawn Cemetery, as it is the only available expansion for the cemetery which would prove satisfactory. Too, it has been cited that the membership of the club is not sufficient to support the erection of a new club house.

*Proposal to prohibit auto racing
on dirt tracks after accidents*

The sentiment which has been current here regarding automobile dirt track races, following a couple of fatal accidents, has crystallized into a petition for injunction against the races in Greene County. The case is set for July 16 and is being watched closely by local people who are interested in the events, as it is feared that the ruling in this case may have some bearing on the

conduct of the races in this county.

Residents of Linton, who are opposed to the races, filed an injunction against the racing association previous to the races last Sunday, but it was impossible to have a hearing before the races. It is said that the question was first brought up at a church meeting and that those present at this meeting instigated the petition.

*Financing local broadcast station
outlined by sponsors*

Sponsors of the Rose Poly Broadcasting station WRPI, have outlined a method of financing the station which now is being presented to business men and manufacturing concerns of the city. The system is that of using the station for advertising and is very similar to that in use by the majority of the stations of the country except that the local station is charging moderate rates.

It is proposed to allow local business men or manufacturers to use the station for one hour at a cost of \$25 for the presentation of their own programs. These programs can be provided by the people connected with their own concerns or special entertainers may be engaged. The station operators will arrange the programs if desired, the cost to be borne by the firm to which the hour of broadcasting is allotted.

Personal and Society

Prof. and Mrs. Dewey Annakin and daughter, Dorothy Rose, 2432 North Seventh, will leave Monday for the west coast, to be gone until the middle of September. They will visit principally in Los Angeles with Mrs. Annakin's brothers-in-law and sisters, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Hughes, and Mr. and Mrs. Murray Johns.

Beltone

SENIOR CITIZENS' MENU

Monday, July 18

Sliced Baked Ham
Glazed Carrots
Cranapplesauce
Rye Bread
Margarine
Cookies
Milk
Coffee/Tea

Tuesday, July 19

Beef and Noodles
Orange Juice
Harvard Beets
White Bread
Margarine
Pudding
Milk
Coffee/Tea

Wednesday, July 20

Swiss Steak
Cream Style Corn
Green Beans
Wheat Bread
Margarine
Pie
Milk
Coffee/Tea

Thursday, July 21

Pork Chop with Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Broccoli
Roll
Margarine
Fruit
Milk
Coffee/Tea

Friday, July 22

Cabbage Roll
Mixed Vegetables
Pineapple and Cottage Cheese
White Bread
Cake
Milk
Coffee/Tea

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A HEARING
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by Casey Sellx

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Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library

Part one

ISU: partner in future of downtown Terre Haute

Pedestrian links aimed at drawing Indiana State University students downtown to shop, and beautifying the borders of the campus to attract visitors make up the bulk of the Strategy for Improvement for ISU.

But creating such a magnet depends ultimately on its practicability and availability of funding, says ISU President Richard G. Landini. Although Landini says he favors the concept, he is the one who will have to secure the funding and justify his request.

He isn't the only one who will have the headaches. The city of Terre Haute will have its share, too, especially when it's forced to find an east-west thoroughfare to replace Chestnut Street.

Included in the magnet proposal is the closing of Chestnut Street, a main artery for east-west traffic, from Sixth to Sixth-and-a-Half Streets. The intent is to eliminate the congested traffic and create a walkway at the center of campus.

But is important to realize the Strategy for Improvement is basically a suggestion and nothing is definite, Landini says.

Here are some of the ideas proposed by the Downtown Improvement Committee:

- * The closing of Sixth Street from Cherry to Mulberry and from Chestnut to Tippecanoe to create automobile-free greenways that would draw students downtown.

- * The development of several north-south pedestrian links that would tie up the ISU 'precinct' with the south border of downtown and create a magnet effect. The links would be landscaped.

One example of a link would be the natural alley east of Paige's Music that students and visitors often use as a short-cut to downtown and campus. The link would pick up on the parking lot between Terre Haute Gas Company and the ISU Alumni Center where a town and gown meeting place has been proposed.

Another link would extend from the Sycamore Towers dormitory complex on Mulberry through the alleys to Ohio Street.

- * The elimination of the Paddock Building and former Sears store (which houses the student newspaper) both on Seventh and Cherry so that a plaza could be built to draw pedestrians into the campus from a south east entrance.

- * Creation of an attractive main entrance to the ISU campus at Mulberry and Third.

The entrance would form a loop at Sixth Street where traffic would turn left and proceed to Chestnut to the exit at Third Street.

- * Encouragement for the location of an ISU performing arts center on the northwest corner of Sixth and Cherry.

- * Expansion of the ISU School of Technology building to the parking lot on the northeast corner of Sixth and Cherry.

- * Construction of shops in the lobbies of the Terre Haute House and former Deming

Hotel which will house the elderly.

- * Elevated restaurants and coffee shops along Cherry.

Many of the ideas will take years to complete if they are finalized, Landini says, but a few improvements are likely at ISU in the near future.

One will be paving the parking lot on Third Street between Mulberry and Eagle Street. Landscaping will also be done on it like the landscaping on the lot at the northeast corner of Sixth and Cherry.

The University also hopes to raze the Sears store by June 1, 1978, if not sooner, according to J. Kenneth Moulton, vice president for Business Affairs at ISU. Some landscaping will be done at that time.

But the Paddock Building which houses the Orpheum Hair Center and professional offices probably won't be razed until the 1980s since the lease doesn't run out until 1981.

Even if the strategy for improvement wasn't adopted and implemented, the University would continue its own internal improvements, Landini said.

The proposal to close Chestnut and Sixth Streets has long been a desire of the University and it is hoped they will be closed by 1980. Landini said he'd like to see Chestnut closed from Fifth to Sixth-and-a-half streets instead of the proposed closing from Sixth to Sixth-and-a-half.

If his desire is granted, then the main entrance might have to be altered. But Landini isn't exactly in favor of the proposed entrance. "I object to the first view of this University being a parking lot," he said. He would prefer the entrance to be at Chestnut and Third Streets.

The intent of that entrance was to try with the least amount of money to create an attractive entrance, says Harold Baker, of the Department of Redevelopment.

"The loop was just one way to demonstrate how with limited funds, an attractive entrance could be created and bring traffic into the University," Baker said.

"But I'm personally not that excited about the loop," he said. "I'm not sure it will give the University what it wants in the way of a formal entrance."

Baker believes the greenways can be built quickly without much money, but stressed only the power structure in the community can prompt a more attractive campus and downtown.

Also, Baker says these ideas are "tentative and flexible."

"Everyone needs to realize these are not specific designs and they really have to be thought out thoroughly. The community is ready to jump at anything out of hunger for change."

The climate for change is the positive aspect in the proposals for downtown improvement, Baker said. "That's probably the top thing we've got going now."

Next week: the specifics of the Dober plan plus other ideas for downtown.

Special Collections

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

City Planning (197)
**City-County
Parking Plan
Bids Opened**
T JUN 13 1973
Community Affairs File
By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

Bids were opened Tuesday afternoon by the Terre Haute Redevelopment Department for Phase V of a project that will clear the way for construction of a new Civic Center parking lot near the city's west side "Y."

"This includes everything inside the 'Y' at Harding and Wabash," Robert L. Payne, executive director of the Redevelopment Department said. "with removal of sidewalks and curbs, construction of new sidewalks and a 22-foot wide concrete street with emergency lanes back of City Hall. We'll also grade for the new parking lot."

Three bids on the project were received Tuesday and will be taken under advisement until the Redevelopment Commission meeting next Thursday, June 21, at the department's offices, 417 S. 5th St.

Gordon Johnson Inc., Pendleton, submitted the lowest bid, \$162,902.50. Newlin-Johnson Development Co., Terre Haute, submitted a bid of \$167,105.27, and Kay Company, Clinton, \$176,005.

The engineer's estimate was \$193,908.75.

Work on Phase IV, "everything outside the Y," as Payne explained, began Monday, with the contract going to Newlin-Johnson Development Co. for \$216,000. This includes resurfacing

Continued On Page 2, Col. 7.

T JUN 13 1973
Bids Opened

Continued From Page One.

ing of parts of Harding, Cherry and Wabash, new curbs, sidewalks, and some sewer work that will correct the drainage problem near the County Highway Garage when the catch basin is connected to the Ohio Street sewer.

The new Civic Center Parking lot is a joint city-county project. The Redevelopment Department was mandated to clear and prepare the land which lies to the west and north of City Hall.

The property was purchased by the City of Terre Haute in late 1971 from the Redevelopment Department. Once the site preparation is complete, the county will take over.

The Vigo County Commissioners will open bids for the construction of the parking lot on Thursday, June 21 at 10 a.m. in Room 25 of the Court House. Federal revenue sharing funds of \$50,000 have been obligated by the county commissioners and county council for the project.

Alternate bids are to be submitted, using two methods of paving, with the final decision based on the lowest cost. One would use 6½ inches of base and asphalt covering, and the other 5½ inches of reinforced concrete.

The parking lot will provide from 350 to 400 spaces depending upon the width of the spaces, and will be used by city and county employees and visitors. There are no plans for parking meters on the lot.

Cherry Street will be the

north boundary, with the south boundary curving around city hall, with Ohio Street and the south curb of Wabash Avenue providing that limit. Second Street will be the eastern border and the Penn Central Railroad tracks the western edge. Entrance will be from Cherry Street.

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Downtown Project

Plans Still Alive

By DOUG SANDHAGE
Star Staff Writer

Progress on the downtown beautification project could be called, in so many words, "certain" and "uncertain," according to Mayor William J. Brighton and Sid Levin, president of the Downtown Business Association.

Brighton reported to The Star that the "city has essentially gone as far as it can go," in the beautification project. He said that thus far about \$750,000 has been spent on the Y-intersections, \$750,000 on beautification around city hall, and \$250,000 on the affected streets that needed repair and signal changes.

The total one and a half million dollars came from federal and tax monies, Brighton explained.

According to the mayor, the Downtown Business Association (DBA) was to complete the

project by providing the money for the proposed improvements along Wabash Avenue. In the original plan, most of the money would have come from a \$300,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. But, the funds were frozen due to federal spending cutbacks by the Nixon administration, said Brighton.

Since the loss of the possible grant, the DBA met and decided to go ahead with their part by trying individual solicitation. According to Brighton, the DBA is just under their goal of \$200,000.

+ + +

Brighton explained then that the project is "now at a stage on whether the DBA should go ahead with the \$200,000 or hold off until six months in anticipation of a new federal program." A new federal program, if ap-

See DOWNTOWN
On Page 2, Column 2

S JUL 23 1974

Downtown

Continued From Page 1

proved would involve matching the fund collected so far with a federal grant, similar to the last \$300,000 grant that failed.

The mayor also opened up a third possibility, noting that the Department of Redevelopment for Terre Haute could use its bonding authority to sell bonds for the downtown improvement. This possibility was considered by Brighton a definite last chance effort.

Brighton emphasized that the downtown area has the heaviest tax base in the city and that he feels a "real effort must be made to help it survive. It would be a tragedy to let it turn into a ghost town."

According to Sid Levin, the DBA has moved ahead and is now obtaining estimates for what they want improved. He said the association anticipates putting in new sidewalks, curbs, making improvements on the intersection and planting trees and shrubs in the area.

+ + +

Levin explained, though, that he was not certain about how much work could be done until the estimates are received by the DBA improvement committee.

Kuykendall Construction Company is preparing the estimates, which will be completed following a survey by Construction Engineering Services, Inc., on basement extensions under walks and other subgrade construction.

The only noticeable improvement made thus far by the DBA has been the hanging of flower pots on many of the light poles along Wabash Avenue. The pots originally were filled with real flowers but have since had to be replaced with artificial ones.

The city completed the west-side Y-intersection last year in an effort that is supposed to reroute through traffic from Wabash onto either Cherry or Ohio Streets. The thought was that the new traffic pattern would produce less congestion downtown and thus provide more of a convenience to shoppers. Persons traveling west and wishing to avoid the downtown can turn right from Wabash Avenue onto 9th Street, then turn left at Cherry Street and follow that exit to their destination.

Persons going east simply follow Ohio Street to 11th Street turn left and then right when they reach Wabash Avenue.

The city also has recently completed its city hall beautification. New sidewalks, a fountain and trees and shrubs have been added to the area and several of the old streets have been filled over with dirt and grass planted in replacement. A large parking lot north of city hall also was added.

Special Collections

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NOV 5 1974

Community Affairs File

City Planning, T.H.

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A LOOK AT THE FUTURE—An artist's conception of downtown Terre Haute upon completion of the Downtown Beautification Program was revealed this week. The improvement project includes new walks and curbs, new lighting, islands of greenery and shelters from 3rd to 9th Streets. The shelters, providing protection to citizens during inclement weather, will be constructed on all four corners of each intersection. There will be 28 planter wells and a number of planted trees. Attractive lanterns will replace current lamp posts. Construction of the project is to begin next year, according to Sid Levin, president of the Downtown Business Association.

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CITY PLANNING
(T.H.)

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CONT. ON THE BACK

DBA Operating New Sidewalk Sweeper Here

The new 25-horsepower sidewalk sweeper obtained by the Downtown Business Association, now is operating three

See Photo On Page One

hours a day Monday through Saturday to clean the gutters, alleys and sidewalks of the central downtown business district.

Sid Levin, DBA president, gave a brief demonstration Wednesday afternoon of how the sweeper operates and said it cleans the area between Third and Ninth and One-Half streets and Cherry and Ohio streets with the exception of Third Street itself.

Cost of the machine is slightly over \$5,300, and DBA has negotiated a rental-purchase agreement for use of the sweeper on a monthly basis. Levin had explained earlier, DBA will pay for the machine's operation and maintenance.

Levin has contacted Mayor William Brighton and the city councilmen on behalf of the association and asked that the city pay \$3,800 of the total price.

Levin said Wednesday that "The Mayor expressed the idea that if the councilmen were for it he was." Levin added that the councilmen had "expressed enthusiasm" for the idea when he talked to them about sharing the cost.

Community Affairs The
City Planning (T.H.)

Officials Dedicate Municipal Fountain

T MAY 29 1974

By JAMES McHARGUE
Tribune Staff Writer

Official dedication of the fountain between City Hall and the Courthouse Wednesday signified, in essence, the completion of the beautification project in that area.

Mayor William J. Brighton said there is only some basic landscaping to be done before the beautification is finalized.

"The heavy construction is finished," said the mayor. "And most of the sod has been laid. It is, in essence, done."

The project, which included the construction of a 600-space parking lot, sidewalks and curb-

ing for several blocks around the area, landscaping and the building of the fountain, cost around \$700,000.

"I would like to point out that the \$700,000 was a federal grant," explained Brighton. "And not a penny of local property tax money was used in the project."

Brighton told The TRIBUNE: "The people of the community should keep in mind that the beautification of the area around City Hall and the Court House was local government's contribution to the downtown beautification project, which has yet to be started."

"The 'Y' traffic system will

soon be completed and it also is part of the beautification project and cost another \$700,000.

"I think anyone will agree that this area has been enhanced tremendously by the projects. The parking and convenience for citizens utilizing government offices is much better."

Brighton said it is hard to believe just last year old, dilapidated buildings surrounded City Hall. "We soon forget how bad this area really was," he added.

Designers and planners of the beautification and fountain projects were members of the Terre Haute Redevelopment Commission staff, under the direction of Robert Payne.

Those attending dedication ceremonies included Brighton; Harry Brentlinger, commissioner; Pat O'Leary, president of the Terre Haute Area Chamber of Commerce; Payne; Frank Pfox, Terre Haute Concrete; George Kassis, Redevelopment Commission board member, and several others.



BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT COMPLETE—The dedication of the fountain between City Hall and the Courthouse signified the completion of the beautification project in the area. Presenting a key to the fountain to Mayor William J. Brighton, center, is Robert Payne, director of the Terre Haute Redevelopment Commission, while Pat O'Leary, president of the Terre Haute Area Chamber of Commerce, looks on. Payne and his staff designed the fountain and project.

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Community Affairs File House of Photography Photo.

City Planning
Downtown T.H.
Community Affairs
Project Plans
Move Ahead

Even though a freeze on federal funds for the proposed downtown improvement project continues, area officials are still hopeful that funds will be released eventually and are continuing their planning efforts.

Warner H. Paige III, administrative assistant to Terre Haute Mayor William J. Brighton, represented the city at a meeting in Indianapolis Friday between local officials and others from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Also attending were Jerry Dooley and John Sheehan of the West Central Indiana Economic Development District.

Paige attributed the nationwide freeze of HUD funds partly to the appointment of Frederick B. Dent as the new Secretary of Commerce, to give him time to study and review major fundings.

The downtown project, is estimated to cost \$600,000, with one-half the cost being sought through HUD, and the remainder from the local downtown businesses which will directly benefit.

Meantime, Paige said, committees are "tying up loose ends and ironing out small problems pertaining to parking, traffic flow and other facets in our construction plans."

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City Planning (9/14)

Downtown Beautification

Community Affairs File T NOV 8 1973

The Downtown Beautification Project is getting closer to reality, according to reports from Sidney Levin, president of the Downtown Business Association, and Mayor William J. Brighton.

That is encouraging news to all citizens interested in the revitalization of the heart of the city, especially those who realize the importance of downtown Terre Haute to the total community.

The most recent report shows that \$100,000 of the \$300,000 needed to implement the total downtown beautification proposal already has been pledged by land owners in the project area. Hopefully, the \$300,000 in pledges will be achieved soon so that work can begin on schedule next May.

The beautification project will help keep Terre Haute in step with other progressive cities such as Indianapolis, Evansville and Richmond who already have revitalized the hearts of their communities.

A downtown beautification program here would provide a stimulus for the overall development predicted for downtown Terre Haute following the opening next month of the \$10 million Hulman Civic University Center. The center is expected to attract numerous conventions and internationally-acclaimed programs, which would bring many visitors to the city.

When it was learned several months ago no federal money would be available, it would have been easy for local leaders to throw up their hands and forget about downtown beautification.

Fortunately for us, they chose to carry on with the program despite the lack of federal funding.

Instead of waiting around for possible federal handouts to become available again, they are digging into their own pockets to try to make the dream for downtown Terre Haute a reality.

Full implementation of the downtown beautification proposal could result in future benefits to the community far exceeding the amount requested in this current campaign.

This community has a lot at stake in the success of the fund-raising effort and implementation of the program.

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Vigo County Public Library City Planning (TH)
Downtown Pledges
NOV 2 1973 Community Affairs File
Reach \$100,000

By JAMES McHARGUE
Tribune Staff Writer

At his Friday morning news conference, Mayor William J. Brighton said the Downtown Beautification Project "is going ahead full-steam" and construction should begin by May.

The mayor said Sidney Levin, president of the Downtown Business Association, and other merchants have collected \$100,000—one third of the total needed—in pledges during the past 10 days.

Brighton added:

"Sid Levin is spearheading the new drive for pledges. There were problems earlier such as complicated ownership and lease arrangements, but those are about to be overcome.

"The specifications, designs and engineering that will have to be done are now being drawn up by Robert Payne (director of the Terre Haute Redevelopment Commission). Public Service Indiana has already submitted the lighting proposal to Payne for his okay.

"I fully expect construction on the Downtown Beautification project to begin by next May."

Brighton said the city is continuing its part of the project. Cherry Street will be resurfaced from 3rd to 9th Streets in the next few weeks and contracts have been let for work at the 9th Street entrance to Cherry and the 11th Street exit from Ohio to Wabash.

The Mayor also revealed that the Indiana State Highway Commission has given approval to leave parking on one side of Cherry Street. Originally parking was to be removed completely from the thoroughfare, but opposition developed and the

commission has now backed off of its first ruling.

Brighton noted, however, that it parking harms traffic flow on the street, the commission will reverse its decision and order the spaces removed.

The beautification project will cost over \$300,000. All federal monies originally promised to aid in the costs were cut off by a freeze on funds and the merchants have been asked to pledge a certain amount per storefront footage to pay for the construction.

The plan to revitalize downtown was first proposed because, according to many observers, the area was dying from lack of shopper interest.

If implemented, Wabash Avenue will be changed to a two-lane street with no traffic except autos carrying persons to shop in the area. Also, parking will be diagonal which in turn will create an additional 100 spaces.

At the news press conference, Brighton said he knew of no plans to build a multi-level parking garage downtown.

The parking situation at the Hulman Civic University Center will not be the problem many people expect, according to the mayor. He pointed out that within two blocks of the facility is parking enough for thousands of autos.

Brighton predicted activities at the center will aid in the revitalization of downtown.

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City Planning (T.H.)
**Sheehan Says Improvement
In Downtown Is Imperative**
also West Central Ind. Econ. Dist.

T. JAN 25 1973

By JAMES DRESSLER
Tribune Staff Writer

The city of Terre Haute with-
out a viable downtown area
would be only a series of frag-
mented neighborhoods, John E.
Sheehan, regional planner for
the West Central Indiana Eco-
nomic Development District,
said Wednesday.

Sheehan was one of the fea-
tured speakers at the 1973
Terre Haute Business Outlook
Forum. Theme for the forum
was businesses' social respon-
sibility to the community.

Noting that 1972 was a year
in which Terre Haute prepared
for a possible beginning of Cen-
tral Business District improve-
ments, Sheehan said the cul-
mination of that beginning now
depends on the ability and de-
sire of downtowners and local
government to really get to-
gether and co-operatively de-
cide what improvements should
be made.

Sheehan pointed out alternate

plans for beautification of the
Central Business District have
been completed and that an ap-
plication has been submitted re-
questing participation by the
Department of Housing and Ur-
ban Development (HUD). It is
expected numerous citizens will
become involved in a process to
help determine just what plan
is needed downtown.

Stressing the importance of
an eventual decision on the fu-
ture of the downtown area,
Sheehan said:

"This decision could have
drastic effects on the charac-
ter and structure of Terre
Haute as a community and
the pattern of living of each
of its citizens.

"Without a viable down-
town, the city is only a series

of fragmented neighborhoods.
For the heart and nucleus
of Terre Haute is its down-
town.

"It is essential that this
vital section of the city reach
and maintain its optimum
viability and activity as an
employment center, service
center, center of commerce,
focal point of activity, source
of city revenue, stimulus to
growth in adjacent areas of
the city, and for the protec-
tion of those investments,
both public and private, al-
ready committed to the Cen-
tral Business District."

While 1972 was the prepara-
tion for Central Business Dis-
trict improvement, Sheehan said
1973 could be the premiere
showing of the following im-
provements:

- Completion of the west
end of the "Y" interchange.
- Approval of the HUD

Continued On Page 3, Col. 4.

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NEWS DIGEST
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T. JAN 25 1973
Sheehan

Continued From Page One.

downtown grant.

—The raising of local matching funds.

—Development and approval of a Central Business District improvement plan through the cooperation of downtown merchants, local government and involvement by rank-and-file citizens.

—Implementation of a downtown plan.

—Completion of the proposed east end "Y".

—Completion of the \$8 million University-Civic Amphitheater in the heart of the city.

—Development of adequate parking facilities for the Central Business District.

"Hopefully, at this forum next year," Sheehan added, "a merchant or local official will be standing before you speaking of these projects in the present tense rather than the future tense."

Looking back at downtown ac-

complishments of the last year, Sheehan noted that a joint commission composed of government officials and downtown businessmen was formed. Also, a citizens' advisory committee to that commission was established.

The city received approval of an application from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for 12 modern city buses and the west end "Y" project was almost completed. In addition, construction of the University-Civic Amphitheater moved into full swing.

He also noted the demolition of various dilapidated buildings in the Central Business District. Significant steps were taken concerning a east-end "Y". Serious discussions also began regarding the establishment of adequate parking facilities for the Central Business District.

In response to the common question of who should be responsible for downtown improvements, Sheehan said:

"In my opinion, the downtowners economic responsibility to themselves and to each other are inseparable from their social responsibility to the community. For in the most part, what is good for downtown in economic terms will be good for the community in social terms.

Social Responsibility

"Downtowners have a social

THE TRIBUNE, TERRE HAUTE, IND.

responsibility to the community, but this responsibility must be measured in tangible and economic terms if such a responsibility is to be acknowledged.

"When economics aren't supportive of a social responsibility, the effects of that responsibility could not be expected to endure for very long. As such, they should not even be attempted.

"Therefore, we should expect those businessmen downtown to concentrate primarily on the economics of changing or improving the Central Business District. Their secondary concern would be upon the social impacts anticipated from an economically feasible change. They should seek the maximum in desired social impacts in accordance with what is economically possible.

"The downtown was built upon economic grounds, and it's survival must be determined on these grounds."

Turning to the role of local government on downtown improvements, Sheehan said:

"The role of local government, as protectors and initiators of the public welfare and well being, should be oriented toward the social impacts of changing the Central Business District, and how to assign a monetary value as its contribution for assisting in bringing

about these desired social impacts.

"Local government should look to the people in determining desired social effects. A unification of these roles of downtown and local government would help determine what types of improvements would be best for the Central Business District and how such improvements could be accomplished."

Sheehan warned that the biggest threat to downtown development is apathy in many cases.

"Such community ineptness can be overcome only where downtowners and local government officials are progressive, active and resourceful," Sheehan said. "The events of 1972 indicate Terre Haute possesses such people and also indicate that something could be accomplished in the Central Business District this year."

In the other afternoon speech at the business forum, John E. Mackie, safety coordinator of the Visqueen Division, Ethyl Corp., explained various ramifications of the Occupational Safety Health Act (OSHA).

Morning speakers included: Robert W. Miller, deputy director on International Economic Policy; John T. Newlin, president of Newlin-Johnson Co.,

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Inc.; Charles E. Uhl, area manager of Public Service Indiana; and Patrick O'Leary, president of Terre Haute Concrete Supply Co.

Dr. Harry F. Krueckeberg, director of the ISU Bureau of Business, served as general chairman of the forum.

Dr. Clinton A. Baker, dean of the School of Business, was chairman of the morning session while Dr. Robert Steinbaugh, chairman of the Management Finance Department, was the afternoon chairman.

Proposed Third Street overpass Landini, Chalos differ in

4-16-80

Indiana Statesman

ISU City Planning

By JIM HOWE
Managing Editor

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON THE 3RD STREET OVERPASS AND THE CLOSING OF 6TH AND CHESTNUT STREETS ON THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

The University is emphatically not opposed to the construction of a railroad overpass on 3rd Street (Route 41) to the Northeast of the campus. We have consistently added our support and endorsement to any and all projects and plans designed for the betterment of the community-at-large and to the city of Terre Haute.

The University is deeply concerned about the possible impact of the 3rd Street Overpass on an already critical traffic situation within the campus. I have heard the Mayor himself say that East-west traffic on Chestnut Street, through the physical center of the campus, will increase markedly with the completion of the overpass.

Even as matters stand, the growing threat to the physical safety of our students, faculty, and staff together with the air and noise pollution created by heavy commercial traffic has reached alarming proportions.

The Mayor's opposition to the closing of 6th and Chestnut Streets is astonishing, for it betrays a complete and utter disregard for the welfare and interests of one of the greatest assets in his city.

It is too bad, really, that the Mayor doesn't reconsider his opposition and address himself to the ways and means by which the needs of both the city and the University can be met.

Surely the Mayor doesn't mean to imply that he doesn't care what the University thinks or needs. Surely his negativism regarding the University doesn't reflect the majority view of the people.

The University has given manifest evidence of its desire to help this community, not only in the education of its people but also in social, economic, and cultural improvements. The University has expressed its willingness to cooperate with the city, to help find ways to solve problems. I am sorry to say that the same cannot be said of the Mayor.

I can understand his concerns regarding the welfare of the City regarding traffic flow and transportation. What I can't understand is why he can't understand the critical needs of this University--or at least to be responsive in recognizing the problem.

Over the last several years we have tried to point up to the community and its leaders the severity of the problem. So far the response we have received from city government has been disdain and disregard for the concerns of the University and an attitude of non-cooperation.



TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47800 — (812) 232-6311

ISU President Richard Landini said yesterday that Terre Haute Mayor Pete Chalos has ignored the University's interests in planning the proposed Third Street overpass.

The difference of opinion between Landini and Chalos concerns to what street east-west traffic will be routed during construction of the overpass. Chalos has said Chestnut Street would be the most viable alternate route. The proposed overpass would cross over the railroad tracks on North Third Street, near Tippecanoe Street.

Chalos has established construction of the overpass as one of the priorities for his administration. He thinks it will help solve the traffic problem the rail traffic causes.

Landini agrees the overpass will help the city. However, he said the impact on the University by rerouting traffic through campus on Chestnut Street would be a major problem.

"The main concern of the University...is not the building of the overpass, but the impact of it on the campus," Landini said.

Landini said the large amount of traffic on Chestnut Street causes a safety hazard for ISU students, faculty and staff who frequently walk through the area, which is located in the center of the campus. He also said it's impossible to teach in classes in buildings facing Chestnut when heavy semi-trailers pass through campus.

Landini has proposed other streets as a main east-west route which would "dump" into the overpass. He said J. Kenneth Moulton, senior vice president and treasurer, wrote to the director of the firm doing the environmental impact analysis about the possibility of using another street as the main east-west route from the overpass. Written in July 1978, at Landini's urging, the letter suggested that Tippecanoe Street be used instead of Chestnut Street.

Landini said the University has suggested alternatives that could be acceptable to the city and still lead to his personal goal--the closing of Sixth and Chestnut streets.

He said, however, that he has received no cooperation from the administration. "I've gotten more

cooperation and support from townspeople and small businessmen."

Landini said an academic atmosphere shouldn't include the problems which heavy traffic causes. "This campus deserves an atmosphere and an ambience in which institutional learning can take place. Noise and air pollution is disturbing and disruptive to thought," he said.

"We're a part of this community, yet they (city government) treat us like an embarrassment," he said.

"Where else do you have a citadel of the mind with semi-trucks rolling through?" he asked.

Landini said the "University has been proposing alternatives" for almost two years. "Beforehand, we had silence," Landini said. "Now we have opposition."

He added that the University has submitted "cogent questions and facts" to the city on the Sixth and Chestnut issue but has received "no cogent answer."

Landini said he understands the concern the city has for the closing of the Sixth and Chestnut intersection. But he can't understand why the city does not consider the problems the intersection causes the University.

The University and the city should be a "positive correlation," Landini said. He said he thought it would be in the "city's enlightened self-interest to have a strong campus."

Landini added that ISU could have a direct economic effect on the city in a positive or negative fashion. With the increasing competition for students in the future, Landini said the University must put forward a good image with a "sense of integrity" to be able to compete for students.

"I feel strongly enough about this campus that I'll tell them that this University has a need," he continued. "The light in this has been under the bushel basket long enough,"

To close or not to close...

REFERENCE

Street controversy continues

Indian Statesman
By DEANNA ZEHR
Statesman Staff Writer

Much controversy concerning the effect of traffic on the University from the proposed construction of a Third Street overpass still stands between Terre Haute Mayor Pete Chalos and ISU President Richard G. Landini.

"It is our judgment that the overpass is in the best interest of the people. But the main concern of the University is not the building, but the impact of it on the campus," Landini said Tuesday night at a public hearing about the overpass.

Landini believes if Chestnut

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Street is used as the main east-west route from the overpass, the increase in traffic would create the possibility of an added hazard for students, faculty and staff who frequently walk through the area.

Landini reiterated his desire for the closing of Sixth and Chestnut streets and said the University's official position is "still unwavering."

Landini indicated that the University is not opposed to the overpass if there is an element of consideration for the necessity of closing the Sixth and Chestnut street intersection.

However, the president said he has received "little or no

cooperation" from the city administration with regard to the closing and he added Chalos has "exhibited complete disdain and disregard for needs real and critical" for the closing.

Chalos said in a speech last week that he would "leave the intersection open for the tenure of (his) office."

Landini also said other streets have been proposed as a main east-west route for traffic from the overpass. He said J. Kenneth Moulton, senior vice president and treasurer for the University, wrote an environmental researching firm about the possibility of using an alternate route.

The letter, written in 1978, suggested Tippecanoe Street be used instead of Chestnut Street. Landini said the University has suggested acceptable alternatives to the city which would lead to the closing of Sixth and Chestnut streets.

He said, however, that he has received no cooperation from the administration. "Beforehand we had silence. Now we have opposition," he said.

Chalos, who regards the overpass as his top priority project for Terre Haute, disagrees with Landini.

Chalos believes that the closing of Sixth and Chestnut streets would pose a problem for traffic

needing to go east of U.S. 41 or west of Seventh Street near the ISU campus.

He said with the completion of the overpass, Chestnut Street would be the only route for east-west traffic between Locust and Ohio streets.

"We certainly want no fight with the University," Chalos said. "We appreciate them and want to work with them. I would just hate to think we get five years in the overpass and botch it up."

The purpose of the hearing, which was conducted at the Ouabache Elementary School, was designed to give all interested persons an

opportunity to express their views about the construction project.

State Highway Commission Officer Harold Franschor said a decision on the overpass will not be made until public input is heard on the matter.

During the first half hour of the hearing, state officials received comments, statements and exhibits from persons wishing to submit their view about the project.

Among citizens having comments for the officials was Herman Brown, owner of Sky King Airport. Brown said that if the overpass could be built within the next two or three years, it would solve a lot of traffic problems on Cherry and Chestnut streets during the mornings and evenings.

The second part of the hearing consisted of official presentations by the panel of State Highway Commission and Federal Highway Administration officials.

John Hamster, an

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environmental specialist, explained to the audience how the location for the overpass was selected.

Hamster said alternative locations for the overpass were considered but were "eliminated because of high costs and continuing maintenance"

"An overpass east of Third Street would disrupt traffic and a location west of Third Street would require two separate overpasses," Hamster said.

Hamster also said that four alternate alignments were considered. These alignments were referred to as A, Al, B and C.

Alignments A, B and C were eliminated for various reasons and alignment Al was decided upon.

Hamster said one other method was discussed, the "do nothing method." This method would simply be to leave things as they are and do nothing to change them.

Alignment Al provides for a six-lane overpass, a median with concrete barriers and a five-foot sidewalk on each side of the overpass.

The alignment would begin at the intersection of Third and Lafayette streets, curve slightly to the east, cross the Conrail tracks, then slightly curve to the west and meet Third Street.

This alignment would eliminate intersections at Third and Canal streets, Third and Tippecanoe

streets and Third and Elm streets.

It would not, however, affect Spruce Street or the Third and Lafayette street intersection. Hamster said the Locust Street intersection may have to be moved a little north but there will be enough room to provide a future street where East Fourth Street and West Third Street connect.

Arnold Ray, a representative of the State Highway Commission, discussed the highlights of relocation assistance, acquisition of right of way and payment of damages for loss of business and land.

Hamster said the "tentative date for the building of the overpass would be 1982, providing all conditions are compatible."